STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

Thursday, June 13, 2013 | Read by more than 57,000 people | Price when sold 50p | mna media

Online rescue

Facebook posting saved life of Molly the bulldog

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Memory Lane

Town's picture album offers peek into the past

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Off target

Stourbridge's Nick is out of the darts 'FA Cup'

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HOMES SCHEME HIT BY NEW ROW OVER CASH

A COUNCIL has been reported to the Local Government Ombudsman over a row about a controversial village housing scheme near Stourbridge.

More than 4,000 people signed a petition against proposals to build 175 homes on land in Hagley.

by Heather Large

Councillors on Bromsgrove District Council approved the project.

As part of the permission, a section 106 agreement was reached with the developer, Cala Homes, to pay for improvements in the village.

However, campaigners have lodged an objection with the ombudsman because they are concerned that money is not being spent on improvements they highlighted, such as sports and leisure facilities.

Shelters

As part of the plans, Cala Homes said they would spend £800,000 on education in the village, £85,000 towards enhancements to Hagley Surgery, and a further £25,000 for a new bus shelter in Park Road.

New cycle shelters would be built at Hagley railway station and Cala Homes committed to spend more than £1 million on improvements to the Kidderminster Road roundabout.

But Peter Rowbottom, member of the Hagley Residents Action Group, said: "We are very upset that no monies are to be provided as part of the agreement for Hagley Community Centre, for sports and leisure facilities in the village, for the extra parking that will be required, for groups such as the scouts and local sports clubs, and for ring-and-ride services.

"All these were raised by villagers during the planning application process," he said. "We have now made a formal complaint against Bromsgrove District Council to the Local Government Ombudsman."

The council is receiving a £1.3 million payment from the Government over six years for the development under the New Homes Bonus scheme – a grant to local councils for increasing the number of homes and their use. The cash will be spent across the district rather than focused on the Hagley area.

The council's head of planning and regeneration, Ruth Bamford, said: "Together with the 43 planning conditions attached to this proposed development, the section 106 agreement is close to a million pounds, which was deemed to be acceptable after all the issues identified during consultation were considered.

Services

"The council therefore deemed the developer to have met planning requirements.

"We have not been formally notified or provided with a copy of an ombudsman complaint.

"In regard to the New Homes Bonus, the council previously decided to use all bonuses to support local services by offsetting significant and continuing reductions in government grant.

"The use of any New Homes Bonus monies would be a part of the council's budget-setting process."

● Picture – Page 2

Luke says he's ready to clear his name

Luke with father Patrick

LUKE Walker has returned home to prepare to fight to clear his name after being convicted of killing his girlfriend on Crete.

The 25-year-old returned home to Brierley Hill from Crete last week – nine days after being found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm, leading to the death of Chelsea Hyndman, 20.

He flew to Birmingham with parents Patrick and Lindy, and said: "I want to try to get on with my life and would like to find a job as a personal trainer, but all this pressure is draining me.

"I am going to get some rest and then start all over again. This has been three years of misery but I am not going to give up now. I have got to clear my name."

His 57-year-old electrician father said: "This case has broken us financially. We have spent every penny we had."

Luke has appealed, meaning a jail sentence was suspended until a further hearing.

Firefighters cut boy free

A BOY aged five had to be cut free after getting his arm stuck in railings at his school playground.

Firefighters from Brierley Hill were called to Colley Lane Primary School, Cradley, on Monday.

Firefighter Joe Farmer, from Brierley Hill station, said: "We had to cut some of the wooden railings away, it took us about five minutes to get him out.

"He was absolutely fine. He was overwhelmed by all the firefighters and teachers standing around him."

Young footballers score for Jack

Connor Edge, aged 12, Terri Gricic and son Jack with Colts club treasurer Carl Bottley and Liam Hunter, 12

YOUNG players and managers at a Dudley football club have raised money to help a brave youngster who is recovering after a road accident.

Jack Pinder was just three when he suffered extensive injuries in the collision in Wollaston, Stourbridge.

Since then he has been learning to cope with a new life where he cannot talk, is blind in one eye and deaf in one ear. He also struggles to walk following the accident in December 2011. Members of Netherton Colts, including young players in the club's Soccer Clinics through to Under-18s team, pledged to help. They have raised £1,030 during raffles held at four club presentation evenings over the season.

Jack's mother Terri Gricic, aged 33, today said: "It's amazing. We're really happy and they're such lovely people too."

Miss Gricic, of Lyttelton Road, in Wollaston, said she was undecided about what to get Jack with the money but would choose between sensory equipment so he could enjoy the garden, or a specially-adapted bicycle.

Club treasurer Carl Bottley, a 45-year-old father-of-two, added: "When we heard about what had happened to Jack we just wanted to help."

Jack had to be airlifted to Birmingham Children's Hospital after the accident where he ran in to the road during a family gathering, colliding with the trailer pulled by a Toyota Avensis. He spent 10 days in intensive care.

Libraries are owed £39k by readers

DUDLEY council is owed £39,752.20 in outstanding library book fines.

The outstanding fines date back five years. But one book checked out on November 1996 is still to be returned.

The figures have been released following a Freedom of Information request.

Wolverhampton is owed £34,144.56 in late penalties.

Walsall and Sandwell councils said they didn't hold figures for book fine arrears.

Dudley's director of adult, community and housing services Andrea Pope-Smith said: "Library users in Dudley borough now receive pre-overdue notices by email to let them know their items on loan are about to become overdue.

"We have had many compliments from library users since this scheme was introduced during 2012 and would encourage all library users to update their records with an email address in order to benefit.

She said people could phone any library or go to the website to renew books.

Wolverhampton Council is still waiting on a book checked out five years ago.

The amount owed to councils comes at a time when they are being forced to make millions of pounds worth of savings due to cutbacks by the Coalition government.

Memorial for former MP

A PUBLIC memorial service for Dudley's longest-serving MP Lord John Gilbert, is being planned for the autumn.

But the funeral of the former MP and government minister, who later became a member of the House of Lords, will be private and held in London.

Lord Gilbert, who represented East Dudley for nearly 30 years until 1997, died aged 86 on June 2. He served under Prime Ministers Harold Wilson, James Callaghan and Tony Blair.

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Traders' sadness at having to move

TRADERS at Brierley Hill's Concord Market say they are saddened, but not surprised, by the announcement that it is to close at the end of this month.

The last few traders there said it was once so bustling they struggled to get a spot.

However, today the aged floor tiles stand out as a feature of the market, simply because so few people walk on them.

The market is due to close on June 29.

One trader, Jit Singh, who opened Jean Scene in the market 38 years ago, will run his business solely online, using a warehouse in Wolverhampton.

He said: "I have mixed feelings – on the one hand I feel grateful for all the help the owners have given me over they years, but then I feel a bit bitter because of the lack of notice. We were told last Tuesday, giving us only 14 working days to sort out and clear the stock – I have £100,000 worth of clothing.

"I have a very good group of customers who appreciate the personal touch – without us here, that will be gone."

Jason Brown, who runs Cobblers in the market, says he will try to relocate within the town. The shoe repair shop has been in the market for 27 years. Mr Brown said: "I'm trying to relocate to The Old Market in the town. There is no other shoe repair shop in Brierley Hill, we have an exclusivity here and we want to stay. Customers know where we are and come to us, but in recent times there has been a drop in diversity of traders here and that has led to a drop in passing trade.

"Times are tough, but we have to look forward."

Market losing £2k a month to close down

A MARKET is to close after being in business for 40 years. Its owner has revealed it is losing £2,000 a month.

The market, Concord Market in Brierley Hill, has suffered from dwindling trade and to make matters worse it has been losing stall holders.

Now Shane Birch-Bastock has announced the closure.

The decision is a poignant one for Mr Birch-Bastock because the market in High Street, was set up by his father.

Brierley Hill councillor Rachel Harris said the loss of the market would be a big blow to the town.

Only seven of the 25 stalls are occupied – and four of those have already given notice that they are leaving.

The only stalls left are Jean Scene, Polly's Tea Room and Rose's Cafe.

Brierley Hill's other High Street market a few yards away, remains trading.

Downward

"It's a sad thing but there has been a downward spiral over the last couple of years," said Mr Birch-Bastock, aged 45, who was brought into the business when he left school by his late father, Stan Bastock.

"It's hard to put a finger on why it has been struggling – and it's ironic because our other market in Sedgley is doing really well.

"There is a waiting list of stall holders wanting to go in and it will remain open.

"I should have made the decision to shut the Brierley Hill Concord Market a year or more ago because it has been losing about £2,000 a month," he said.

The market will shut on June 29.

Mr Birch-Bastock, whose Brierley Hill company Pentax Developments owns about 25 other businesses, is now starting talks with the council about redeveloping the market site.

Family brass band date

FAMILIES are being urged to attend a brass band concert in Oldbury on June 23. Halesowen Brass Band will be showing off their skills at Barnford Hill Park in Moat Road, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in a marquee.

How controversial homes will look

An artist's impression of how the proposed housing development in Hagley, will look

THIS image of a development consisting of 175 homes in a village near Stourbridge was unveiled as detailed proposals were lodged with planners.

A full planning application has been submitted by Cala Homes to build the estate in Hagley. Parish councillors and residents' groups have held discussions with the firm to shape the scheme which prompted public protests and a 4,000-name petition.

Campaigners say the scheme, which includes new office space, will exacerbate traffic problems in the village and put pressure on school places and village facilities.

Artist's impressions of the scheme, on land off Kidderminster Road, shows houses surrounded by landscaped gardens.

Paved walkways will lead pedestrians into the new housing estate, with a pond being created in front of homes.

Traditional

Darren Humphreys, managing director of Cala Homes Midlands, said: "The detailed plans we have submitted are for a high-quality scheme, traditional in design and sensitive to its village location. The considerable contribution we will be making to improvements to local infrastructure and services will also mean that the development will benefit the wider community."

Hagley Parish Council chairman Councillor Steve Colella said campaigners were unlikely to object about these updated plans as the scheme had already won outline approval, but he said residents and parish councillors would continue to scrutinise the plans.

Outline planning permission was granted by Bromsgrove District Council at a meeting in January.

Speedway star is to give lift to charity

A SPEEDWAY star will promote the work of a Black Country charity by wearing their logo as he rides at tracks across the country.

Ashley Morris, who races for Dudley Heathens, has sealed a deal with Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind.

The 19-year-old, from Wolverhampton, thought up the idea after seeing other riders baring the logos of charitable causes as they competed.

Mr Morris, who is fresh from representing his country in the Under-21s World Team Cup semi-final, says he is honoured to work with the charity which supports people living with sight loss.

He added: "The centre does fantastic work with people of all ages.

"My team is running a competition for fans this season and I've decided to donate the takings to the Beacon Centre for the Blind to help them raise the profile of what they are all about and go on to help more people in the future."

Beacon Centre chief executive, Arwyn Jones, said: "I am delighted that Ashley has chosen to support us and is helping us to raise awareness of the work we do.

"Support from young people, like Ashley, is vital if we are going to continue that work into the future."

£4.9m is boost to road plan

A NEW link road to tackle congestion in Kidderminster has taken a leap forward with a £4.9 million boost, allowing transport bosses to push ahead with the plans.

The government grant will be used to create the long-awaited route, which will divert traffic away from the town centre. Linking the A451 Stourport Road and the A442 Worcester Road, it will run through the 74-acre former British Sugar factory site, which is being developed into a business park.

The first phase of the scheme, which will connect the Stourport Road with the site, will be carried out later this year. A planning application for the second phase is expected to be lodged in August, and the council hopes to secure a further £11million towards the project.

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Tribute as borough's ex-mayor dies at 75

A FORMER Mayor of Dudley and long-standing councillor in Coseley has died, aged 75.

George Davies was one of the borough's longest-serving councillors over two terms with Dudley Council.

Councillor Davies represented the Coseley East ward from 1973 to 1976 and again from 1985 to 2013 for the Labour party.

He was Mayor of Dudley in 2000/01. During his time on the council, Councillor Davies served on numerous committees including being chairman of the housing committee from 1990 to 1999.

Councillor Davies leaves behind his wife Joyce, three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Councillor Davies' brother is Norman Davies, a former leader of Wolverhampton City Council.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "Councillor George Davies represented this borough with a tremendous amount of pride and passion. He was an extremely popular Mayor of Dudley in 2000/01 and I, along with many other mayors looked up to him for guidance and support. He will be sadly missed."

More car parking for commuters

AN extra 175 parking spaces will be created at Stourbridge Junction railway station as part of a £1.3 million project to expand the park and ride service.

The revamp will also include the creation of electric vehicle charging points and a cycle hub.

Centro received a £2m grant towards work at the site and also at Kings Norton station, in Birmingham, and Four Oaks, in Sutton Coldfield.

The money has been awarded under the government's Local Pinch Point Fund, a £170m scheme to remove transport bottlenecks.

There are 780 spaces at Stourbridge Junction's car parks. But these are often full by the end of the morning rush hour. Nearby roads also become clogged with cars left by commuters.

Accidents at work cost police forces £1m

Steve Simkins

MORE than £1 million has been paid out in compensation to police and staff in the region who been involved in accidents at work – including being bitten by insects and falling off chairs.

Figures show that in one case more than £20,000 was handed out to an officer injured in Staffordshire after they tripped over, and West Mercia Police, which covers Hagley near Stourbridge, agreed compensation after an officer fell on a slippery floor.

In the West Midlands £50,000 was given out for a breach of the data protection act, and thousands of pounds were also given to employees for getting their fingers stuck in doors and falling off chairs.

Other cases include almost £8,000 being given out for insect bites and £600 for a worker injured by noise.

Most of the money – £849,028 – was paid out by the West Midlands force between 2009 and 2012.

Staffordshire Police paid out £157,280 between 2010 and 2012.

West Mercia paid out £51,121 in compensation between 2010 and 2012. Councillor Steve Simkins is chairman of the vibrant, safe and sustainable communities scrutiny panel which oversees crime and community safety in Wolverhampton.

Farcical

He said: "I have full admiration for officers who are hurt in the line of duty and support them as they are protecting the public.

"But payouts for normal accidents such as insect bites seems farcical and should be tightened for the very reason that it is public funds."

Staffordshire police chiefs say decisions over whether to pay out on claims were made through insurers' decisions.

West Mercia Police spokeswoman Sarah Buxton said: "Details of injuries and compensation payments are often more complex than statistics or brief details suggest.

"For example, although an injury might initially be interpreted as minor it may transpire to cause more severe pain and suffering, and sometimes even long-term or permanent damage to the individual."

Facebook advert saved the life of dying bulldog Molly

A COUPLE face being banned from keeping animals after they failed to look after their dying dog.

Joseph Salter and Cally Ricard knew their British bulldog's health was getting worse quickly.

But instead of taking the dog to a vet, they posted an advert on Facebook to sell it.

The six-year-old dog, called Molly, was seriously ill with a tumour, but it was kept 'collapsed and lethargic' in the couple's back garden on a soaking wet cushion.

But the dog was saved when two prospective buyers – Joanne Bennett and Natalie Morris – immediately bought the pet from the couple for £80, and took it to the RSPCA.

At Dudley Magistrates' Court last week, Salter, aged 22, of Penwood Crescent, Quarry Bank, and Ricard, 22, of Lakeside Court, Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty to failing to getting veterinary care for the dog and failing in their duty as owners.

The court heard how the dog, which was inherited by the couple three months before it was sold, could barely walk.

Worried

In an interview, Salter said they could not afford veterinary care, while Ricard said she believed the dog 'loved' the outdoor cushion, adding it was allowed in the kitchen overnight.

After the advert was placed on Facebook, the dog was viewed by friends Joanne Bennett and Natalie Morris, from Halesowen, who were so worried for the animal's health they bought it on the spot.

The women had to drag Molly through the couple's former home in Woods Crescent in Brierley Hill, to get it to their car.

Nick Sutton, prosecuting, said: "This animal was very sick. The defendants both knew it was sick, but the only action they took was to try and sell it.

"They must have known what was going on, this was a sick animal and if it wasn't for the actions of these two ladies, it would not be alive today."

Mr Sutton said the couple received the dog from their landlord after moving into the property in December 2011.

He said the dog was brought to the attention of the RSCPA by Mrs Bennett and Mrs Morris in February last year.

He said: "The women went to the address to ask about the dog – Mr Salter answered the door and they were shown into the back garden where the dog was found on a small cushion.

"It was dirty and mouldy, one of the women said it was soaking wet. Both the ladies were surprised when the animal did not move. One described it as lethargic and collapsed."

He added: "Both found the matter upsetting with one saying it bought her to tears."

Tim Talbot-Webb, defending the couple, said the dog had only shown signs of the serious sickness in the days before the sale.

Banning

He added: "Out of naivety the couple tried to sell the dog."

The Dudly magistrates adjourned sentencing of the pair for probation reports.

Among the sentencing options open to them is a banning order restricting the couple from owning any pets.

After the hearing, Mrs Bennett, aged 43, of Halesowen, said the dog had now fully recovered and was being looked after by Mrs Morris, 45.

She said: "We had to get the dog out of the house and to a place where it would be cared for."

Joanne Bennett, aged 43, with fit-again Molly at Vets 4 Pet in Stourbridge Road, Halesowen

Joseph Salter, aged 22

Cally Ricard, also 22

NEWS in brief

Shock as new councillor dies

THE newly-elected UKIP Worcestershire County Councillor Tony Baker died after collapsing in a car park.

Mr Baker, 69, suffered a cardiac arrest in the car park of Morrisons in Kidderminster last week.

He won the St Mary's seat in Kidderminster last month.

Michael Wrench, of the Wyre Forest branch of UKIP, said: "Tony was a staunch stalwart of the branch and a driving force behind the party's recent electoral success."

Woman cut free after car crash

A WOMAN had to be cut free from a car which left the road at a major traffic island in Dudley last week.

Fire crews were called to the Cinder Bank island on Dudley Southern Bypass last Friday. Four people were in a Fiat Punto which mounted a grass verge.

One rear seat passenger, a woman in her early 20s, had to be cut free.

She suffered back pain and a head injury and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

Former doctor's surgery for sale

A DERELICT doctor's surgery in Stourbridge has been put up for sale, for £225,000. Audnam Lodge, in Brettell Lane, Audnam, had been wanted by Lidl as part of a planned expansion to its store next door.

But after the proposal was thrown out by planners at Dudley Council, the surgery has now been put on the market.

Students get tip on TV licences

STUDENTS moving back home from university and college for the summer holidays could get up a refund worth £36 on their TV licences.

TV Licensing is reminding students to apply for the money back for the holidays.

Log on to www.tvlicensing.co.uk/ studentinfo or call 0300 790 6090.

Homes approved

PLANS for a bungalow in Lower Gornal have been approved. An application to build the two-bedroom property in Flavells Lane was given the go-ahead by Dudley Council. The committee also approved a three-bed detached house in Swan Street, Pensnett.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AND off to that great English institution, the agricultural show, where townies gawp at what goes on in the countryside. I had great sympathy for the line of pedigree rams who waited nervously for a judge to reach between their hind legs and squeeze their testicles. They reacted exactly as you would expect by trying to leap out of the ring. You don't see that sort of thing at the Mr Universe competition.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

THE one thing missing from our local show was that essential part of modern life, a punch-up. Whacking total strangers for no particular reason, preferably in front of terrified children, is very fashionable. In the last few days alone, a village dog show in Kent descended into screaming matches and fist fights with punches being thrown at teenage volunteers. Some folk objected to their pooches not getting rosettes while others were unhappy at the parking arrangements. There was a punch-up, too, at the gates of an infant school in Cornwall. A row which began between two mothers escalated to the point where police had to use pepper spray to arrest a man who was attacking a woman.

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A READER tells me he was waiting at the lights when the car in front suddenly reversed into his car. The other driver was contrite and polite, exchanged details and said: "Don't report it to your insurance company; just send me the bill." Next thing he knew was that the other driver was claiming my reader had driven into him, causing him whiplash. To his fury, his insurer is proposing to settle what sounds like a deliberately staged incident on a 50:50 basis.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

IF YOU think Britain's had a property crash, consider the apartment spotted for sale by a reader just back from Menorca. It has been reduced from 230,000 euros to 100,000 euros.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

WE are presumably supposed to be horrified or amused at the survey showing that some children think fish fingers contain chicken, and that cheese comes from plants. So here's one for us grown-ups. Question: what are hamburgers made of? Answer: we'll tell you when we get the DNA results.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

SLEAZE in Parliament is like dust under the sofa. You suspect it's there all the time but you're still shocked at the quantity. As cash-for-questions raises its ugly head again, isn't it time for constituency associations to get a grip? They are the local party committees who select prospective MPs to represent the interests of local people. They hope their new MP will rage in Westminster against the disgraceful housing conditions on the Slagthorpe Estate. Instead, he is suddenly asking suspiciously well-informed questions in the House about Moldavian gold mines, Moroccan fishing-tackle imports and subsidies to veal producers in Iceland. Alarm bells should ring. The constituency association should then summon its MP and ask what the hell he's playing at, who's paying him and how does he fancy being deselected?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

BAD news for anyone hoping to boldly go where no man has gone before. Nasa has calculated that the long space flight to Mars could expose astronauts to high levels of radiation which could cause cancer. Imagine the compensation they might have to pay. Dan Dare defeated the Mekon and Dr Who saw off the Daleks but mankind's real-life exploration of space may come to a juddering halt in an adventure called Nasa and the No Win/No Fee Lawyers.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

I'd do it again, says victim of assault

THE father of six who was left fighting for his life after being knocked out by road rage driver Samuel Pagett when he tried to slow him down, says he would take the same action again to protect children.

Paul Currie was left unconscious in Newland Grove, Holly Hall, Dudley, after Pagett punched him so hard his head hit a lamp post.

He was revived by an ambulance crew on the way to hospital.

He needed emergency surgery at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital to remove a massive clot from his brain following the attack in January.

Mr Currie, who served with the Staffordshire Regiment, was put into an induced coma for three days.

His attacker pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm and was jailed for 20 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Currie, 41, spent 11 days in hospital and, although he has made a good recovery, the attack has deprived him of his livelihood as a lorry driver because the brain injury means he is not yet cleared to get behind the wheel.

Mr Currie lives with partner, Jo Smith, 29, and their three children, aged seven, three and nine months, in Woodside Road, near Newland Grove.

Motorist

He was walking home when he spotted a car speeding down the street.

"People use Newland Grove as a racetrack and I remember seeing this car doing about 70mph down the road," he said. "There were some kids on the corner of the road and I feared one of them was going to get hit.

"It's a blank after that but I'm told I tried to slow the motorist down and was then knocked unconscious. The ambulance crew had to resuscitate me on the way to hospital – they did a fantastic job, as did the hospital."

Mr Currie, who has three more children with a previous partner, added: "If I witnessed something similar again I probably would step in again – although I'm sure my partner would argue with me."

Paul Currie

Driver sent to prison for road rage attack

A MAN who jumped out of his car and punched a father of six in a road rage attack was jailed for 20 months.

The attack happened after the victim, pedestrian Paul Currie, urged driver Samuel Pagett to slow down.

Mr Currie, a former army corporal with the Staffordshire Regiment, was walking back to his home on the Holly Hall estate, in Dudley, after playing darts with friends at The Woodside pub on January 13.

by Tom Mason

He saw a car, driven by Pagett, driving at speed along Newland Grove and gestured and shouted at him to slow down.

But Wolverhampton Court Court heard Pagett stopped his car suddenly, got out, and delivered a single blow which floored 41-year-old Mr Currie.

Physiotherapy

The victim was in an induced coma for three days and was in hospital for 11 days. He remains unable to return to his job as a lorry driver and needs more medical treatment.

Pagett, aged 25, of Cot Lane, Kingswinford, who worked as a car valeter, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to inflicting grievous bodily harm on Mr Currie.

Jailing him for 20 months Judge Amjad Nawaz said: "These are life changing injuries. I have no doubt that Mr Pagett did not foresee these consequences when he got out the car."

The court heard Mr Currie was now undergoing physiotherapy, and had lost his sense of smell and taste following the attack.

Blondelle Thompson, prosecuting, said Mr Currie had called out to Pagett, saying 'you are going too fast' moments before he was assaulted.

Andrew Thompson, defending, described Pagett's actions as 'a moment of madness' but said Pagett had shown remorse and had pleaded guilty at the first opportunity.

The victim's family were angry at the sentence. Mr Currie's mother Mary Hill, aged 62, said: "The sentence is absolutely disgusting. What about Paul's family and what they have been through? Where is the justice in that sentence? What about the stress caused to his family?"

His step-father Malcolm Hill, aged 67, added: "It has deprived him of his livelihood and changed his life."

5,000 join walk for charities

ABOUT 5,000 people walked a circular route from Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton incorporating Himley Hall, and raised £182,106 for local charities. This year the Free Radio Walk for Kids supported Acorns Children's Hospice, Russells Hall Hospital, Promise Dreams and Hope House Children's Hospice in Shropshire.

Family's pride at memorial

Angus Adams' daughters, front left to right, Karen Hill and Debbie Harris, both of Stourbridge, back left to right, Margot James MP, Centro chief executive Geoff Inskip, and James Morris MP, at Stourbridge bus station

THE man who played a pivotal role in providing a new bus station for Stourbridge has been remembered, with a special plaque unveiled there in his honour.

Angus Adams died suddenly last April aged 67, just weeks before the new £7 million station opened in the town centre. He had been a councillor since 2000 and chairman of transport authority Centro since 2010. A plaque has been unveiled to recognise his hard work in bringing the station to fruition.

Youngest daughter Debbie Harris, aged 41, of Stourbridge, said: "Dad would have been quite abashed by it but he would have been very proud."

Councillor Angus Adams

The granite plaque reads: "Angus worked tirelessly for this development on behalf of the people of Stourbridge. A highly respected local character Angus and his wry sense of humour are very fondly remembered."

One of Mr Adams' best friends, former council leader Les Jones, said: "Angus would be thrilled and will be thrilled wherever he is to know this was going on."

Since opening in May last year the Stourbridge Interchange has landed awards for best large highway and transportation project by the West Midlands Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation and the Institute of Highway Engineers' Mercia Branch Special Project award.

Metro is hailed as a boost for jobless

JOBLESS people are being offered the chance to fill dozens of posts being created by the £128 million extension of the Midland Metro tram system through Birmingham city centre.

Following talks with transport authority Centro and Birmingham City Council, contractor Balfour Beatty has signed up to the employment access team, which helps Birmingham's jobless back into work.

The construction giant, which is building the extension, will take part in the project over the next two years. As part of the scheme the firm has agreed to provide up to 1,000 weeks of employment over the course of the extension project which should be completed in 2015.

The extension, which is a partnership between Centro and the Black Country and Birmingham city councils, will see a 20-strong fleet of new trams deployed on the existing Metro line between Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

The employment programme works with job centres, colleges and employers to connect jobseekers in the Birmingham area with employment, education and training opportunities.

Centro chief executive Geoff Inskip said: "The tram extension is a really important project for the people of the West Midlands and the prosperity of our region.

"In the current economic climate, it is important that we look for ways to support people in their search for employment and it is great that we will be able to do this."

Youngsters' training idea

A NEW finance training scheme for young unemployed people will be tried out in the West Midlands.

The scheme aims to give trainees an opportunity to work in public and private sector organisations and gain a valuable finance qualification at the same time.

Trainees will be employed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), who will oversee the training programme and work with local employer partners to ensure paid placements are available.

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Meetings will give a chance to air issues

DUDLEY people can have their say on local issues at a series of 10 community forums.

On June 17 Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's community forum will be on at St Barnabas Church, Middlepark Road, Dudley. On the same day, Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood community forum will be held at Quarry Bank Community Centre, Sheffield Street.

Coseley East and Sedgley community forum will be at Age Concern, Sedgley, Ettymore Road, on June 18, as well as Gornal, Upper Gornal and Woodsetton community forum at Parkes Hall Social Club, Parkes Hall Road.

Halesowen North and Halesowen South community forum will be on June 19, at Olive Hill Primary School, Springfield Road, with Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town community forum at Ham Dingle Primary, Old Ham Lane, Stourbridge, the same day.

Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South community forum is June 25 at Earls High School, Furnace Lane, Halesowen, while Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley is at St Mary's Parish Church Hall, The Village, Kingswinford. All start at 6.30pm.

Festival is set to be a tasty treat

ORGANISERS are gearing up for the first food festival at the Royal Air Force Museum in Cosford.

A bustling market of around 70 independent food and drink retailers, business and brands is planned for the last week in July.

The event will be held outdoors.

Organisers say they will exhibit 'exquisite', fresh and handmade products from across the West Midlands, Staffordshire and Shropshire, and Newport-based firm FionaOnFish will run demonstrations.

The event will run from 10am to 5pm on July 27 and 28. Admission is £5 for adults. Family tickets are £12. Concessions are £4. For details, call 01902 376200.

Bishop is praised as he prepares to leave

Sad – the Bishop of Dudley

Report by Heather Large

THE Bishop of Dudley said he would be sad to leave the borough when he stands down in October to take up a new position in Manchester.

It comes as both Dudley Council leader David Sparks and the Bishop of Worcester praised the outspoken cleric him for his contribution to the diocese.

The Rt Rev David Walker, aged 56, who has held the top Church of England job since 2000, has been appointed Bishop of Manchester.

The father-of three, who lives with wife Sue in Old Hill, said: "Whilst I am very excited about returning to my home city as Bishop, Sue and I will also be sad to leave so many friends that we have made in the Diocese of Worcester.

I'm grateful for the many opportunities that I have been given both to support the mission and ministry of the Church of England in Dudley and Worcestershire and to contribute to the life of our villages, towns and communities."

The Diocese of Worcester has announced that the process to appoint a new Bishop of Dudley will begin immediately.

Bishop of Worcester, The Rt Rev Dr John Inge said: "Although I shall be very sorry to lose a wonderful colleague, I'm delighted that Bishop David has been appointed as Bishop of Manchester.

"As anyone who knows him will be aware, he is a person of great gifts, immense wisdom and deep personal holiness."

Dedicated

Councillor Sparks added: "It does not surprise me that the Rt Rev David Walker has been promoted as he is a dedicated Christian in a modern context."

The Bishop of Dudley has been outspoken on issues including social housing, asylum seekers and benefit cuts.

He was one of 43 bishops who signed a letter in March claiming that capping benefit rises at one per cent would have a 'deeply disproportionate' effect on children.

He also launched an attack on the way politicians were allegedly exaggerating the negative impact of immigration, which he said was 'wholly disproportionate' to the real threat.

He said: "Public fears around immigration are like fears around crime. They bear little relationship to the actual reality."

Tributes pour in as comic Lee loses fight with cancer

TRIBUTES have poured in for comedian Lee Wilson who died just weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The 74-year-old great-grandfather, whose real name was Geoff Beards, was a regular on the local comedy circuit and during his career mixed with some of the leading lights in the world of showbiz.

"He was the most wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather," said his widow Sheila Beards, aged 72, speaking at the family home in Pedmore, Stourbridge.

"He had a heart as big as a bucket."

He also leaves behind children Tracy, Lee and Debbie.

Mr Wilson, who was born in Wednesbury and lived in Tipton before moving to Stourbridge, started his showbusiness career in the mid-1950s as a musician. From 1957, he served two years with the Cheshire Regiment in Malaya, during which he formed a band entertaining the troops.

Variety

He turned professional in 1973 and went on to win New Faces in 1976 and starred on TV show The Comedians. He was also a familiar face on the popular Black Country Night Out evenings held in the region.

"He was brilliantly funny but spotlessly clean," said Mrs Beards.

A talented salmon and trout fisherman, Mr Wilson was also a popular after-dinner speaker and in 1991 he was invited to join the Variety Club of Great Britain Golfing Society, where he mixed with celebrities from showbusiness and sport, and in the following years helped to raise thousands of pounds for charity.

Mrs Beards said her husband's career was full of highlights.

A few years ago he was embarking on a four-day working cruise when Jasper Carrott phoned him and persuaded him to perform at his Christmas Cracker show on the day he was due to get home.

"Jasper rang and said 'I want you to do the show'," said Mrs Beards.

"He said 'Jasper I'm cruising' but Jasper said 'you come back the Sunday of the show, it will be fine'." Carrott arranged for a limo to pick the couple up, drive them home, and then drive them to the NEC a few hours later. I was watching Lee on stage and Jasper said to me 'now that's what you call comedy'," she said.

Mrs Beards said Jasper had paid his respects to her. "He said he was a wonderful man and said he should have been a big, big star."

On another occasion, Mr Wilson surprised punters at The Fox in Lye by getting Tom O'Connor to perform to raise money for a customer who had recently been burgled.

The comic mixed with stars including Frankie Vaughan, Norman Wisdom and the boxer Henry Cooper and his son Lee Beards, 46, said he got used to big name stars ringing the phone and asking for his dad.

"Henry Cooper would ring and say 'hello mate, is your dad there,'" he said.

"Answering the phone to those sort of people just became the norm."

Jake Elcock who founded Wombourne-based Elcock Entertainments, which represented Mr Wilson, and was a friend for 40 years, said: "He will be sadly missed, a great bloke and a personal friend."

Former Sandwell mayor Bill Archer said: "I feel so sad, we were such great pals. He was such a wonderful man. He will be sadly missed."

TV favourite Bruce Forsyth with comedian Lee Wilson of Stourbridge

Lee with former heavyweight boxer Henry Cooper

Funnyman Jasper Carrott with Lee Williams in 1978

Much-loved comedian Norman Wisdom with Lee and wife Sheila in 2000

NEWS in brief

Deputy leader to talk at town bar

PAUL Nuttall, the deputy leader of UKIP – who is heavily involved in the party's 'Save the Pub' campaign – will speak at a Stourbridge bar later this month.

Mr Nuttall will be guest of honour at Stourbridge UKIP's fifth 'political spice' event at the Britannia Sports Bar, High Street, Wollaston, on June 24. The ticket-only event will start at 7pm. Tickets cost £5, including a meal, and are available from Glen Wilson on 0784 5556723.

Felicity has eyes on singing final

YOUNG singer Felicity Cox could soon be living out her dreams to take to the stage in London by making the final of a national contest.

The 13-year-old from Stourbridge is hoping to progress to the final of the TeenStar singing competition in London.

Felicity, who goes to Redhill School, has already made it to the semi-finals. Now Felicity, of Rufford Road, is hoping to secure one of the wild-card entries to the main event on July 7.

Council cricket match for charity

COUNCIL staff and councillors will be stumping up cash for charity at the annual Mayor of Dudley's cricket match.

A team of Dudley Council officers will be taking on a team of members in a 20-over a side match for the Mayor's charities.

The teams will go head to head at Stourbridge Cricket Club on June 28 at 6pm.

Students raise homeless cash

YOUNG entrepreneurs from Stourbridge College have helped raise almost £200 for a Midlands homeless charity. Students dreamt up business ideas to bring in money for St Basils.

St Basils is a charity that offers advice, emergency and longer-term accommodation for people aged 16 to 25.

Women warned

PREGNANT women are warned by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists that painting the nursery or buying furniture may put their unborn babies at risk from chemicals.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

GOOD to see new Wolves coach Kenny Jackett will be giving the home-grown players a chance following his appointment to the Molineux hot seat.

"I always look for young and hungry players," said Jackett as his first press conference in charge. He is in good company. Last year, following a shaky start to the season, Aston Villa manager Paul Lambert explained his youth-first policy.

"I know that when you get really hungry players they can take you a long way, that's what we will try to do. If you don't have that hunger as a footballer, there's no point playing the game."

Similarly, on announcing the signing of left-back Joe Bennett, Lambert told the assembled media: "Joe's a really good player, young and hungry to succeed and he's exactly the type of player we want here."

Not to be outdone, West Bromwich Albion's Steve Clarke explained the philosophy behind their continued status as the top dogs in the West Midlands.

"The players have the hunger," he said.

One can only assume that the burger vans outside their respective grounds must be doing a roaring trade. Meanwhile, in other news, Wolves, Albion and Villa are embroiled in a £15 million bidding war for the young-and-hungry Oliver Twist.

□□□□□□

STUDENT Ben Cronin claims he was refused a job as a punt tout on Cambridge's famous riverboats because he wasn't good looking enough.

"I went to speak to the man running the boats, but when I asked about a job, he laughed, saying: 'Sorry, mate, you have to be good looking to do this job'," said the 20-year-old psychology student. Sounds like they didn't like his boat race.

□□□□□□

SORRY, but I can't buy into all the conspiracy theories about the Bilderberg conference, where the political leaders of Europe and North America are supposed to have spent the weekend discussing their plans for world domination.

First of all, look at the guest list. Ken Clarke, Peter Mandelson. Ed Balls and George Osborne. Could you honestly see that lot successfully organising a social event in a brewery, yet alone some dark and sinister plot to take over the world?

Secondly, there's the venue. A 'luxury hotel in Watford'. No disrespect to Watford, but it all sounds a bit Alan Partridge, doesn't it?

Yes, we know David Icke thinks they are all descended from lizards from the constellation Draco, and we should always be grateful for his constructive and interesting contributions to the debate.

But the former Coventry City goalie's contribution aside, I don't think I will be losing too much sleep over the summit.

Stall helper Gwen Barnett with David Smart, Yvonne Smart and Cathy Glear

The Midlands Air Ambulance have benefited from the sisters' knitting skills

Blanket coverage for Air Ambulance

Two sisters use their knitting skills to help the charity. **CHARLOTTTE LILLEY** finds out why they do it

YVONNE Smart, and Cathy Glear are familiar faces at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and are a friendly sight for patients and staff who look forward to their visits.

The sisters run a stall in the entrance of the hospital once a month, selling blankets, baby clothes, scarves, shawls and other garments they have knitted or crocheted.

All the money they raise goes towards Midlands Air Ambulance and since 2009, the two have collected a staggering £37,000.

"Our passion for knitting all began when we were little girls. We would watch Blue Peter on the TV and there would be someone knitting," says Mrs Smart, from Kingswinford.

Wrap

"Our mother taught us how to do it properly and since then we haven't stopped. Cathy and I have always enjoyed arts and crafts and were always doing something to keep ourselves busy when we were younger.

"But knitting and crochet is what we do best and over the years we have made hundreds of things from blankets to baby clothes.

"At Russells Hall there is a maternity ward and new mothers love to come and see what we are selling for them to wrap their newborn babies in."

Mrs Smart, aged 55, used to work in a shop but now spends as much time as possible knitting garments for family and friends as well as the stall.

Her 59-year-old sister, from Netherton, who works as a foster mother, uses any free time she has to teach the craft to the children in her care. Mrs Smart says:

Yvonne Smart, right, with her husband David and her sister, Catherine Glear

"We rarely have any spare time because we are both always really busy, but when we do you can bet that we will be holding a pair of knitting needles."

"It is really simple to learn how to knit and once you've mastered it, it's like riding a bike, you never forget.

"I think knitting is becoming even more popular now and a number of celebrities have also started to take it up, including Geri Halliwell, Russell Crowe and the Duchess of Cambridge.

"It just goes to show that you can be any age and still enjoy it and make a truly unique garment." The rise of the internet and the increasing popularity of YouTube has meant it is much easier for people to learn how to knit.

And according to figures from the UK Hand Knitting Association, around four million women and almost half a million men have an interest in knitting and want to learn the craft.

"We have people come to us and ask us for tips. Cathy and I have both helped lots of people learn to knit over the years. I think it is very therapeutic," says Mrs Smart. "It is very satisfying being able to make something from scratch that will be made of good strong quality and will last for years.

"Just knowing that there is nothing on the high street that looks remotely similar is fantastic.

"My favourite thing to make is scarves and I am about to start making some for Christmas. Scarves aren't too difficult and you can use wild and wacky patterns for a bold effect.

"Cathy has made scarves with little pockets for some of her foster children and we have made lots of pretty things in the past for peoples birthdays.

"We have got a fantastic backing from our family and lots of people tell us how wonderful our creations are which is lovely to hear."

Because of the high demand for their products, the sisters are running out of wool and are desperately appealing for more.

Wool

A team of 23 volunteers helps them to knit and sell their products at the hospital in aid of Midlands Air Ambulance and the two are now also making a plea to the public to donate any unwanted craft items, such as beads, buttons, broken jewellery and unwanted gifts.

"We always need wool and unwanted items so if any members of the public have any to give to us then we would be more than grateful," says Mrs Smart.

"We are truly passionate about the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and really enjoy knitting, so we thought selling our knitted goods was the perfect way to fundraise for the service.

"We support the Air Ambulance because it is a marvellous charity that receives no government funding and relies completely on public support.

"If people could help us to continue to support them by donating that would mean a lot to us."

Anyone wanting to donate wool or find out more about supporting the charity should visit www.midlandsairambulance.com or call 0800 840 2040.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

LABOUR MP Renee Short held on to her Wolverhampton North-East seat by the skin of her teeth in the General Election. After two dramatic recounts Mrs Short saw her majority of more than 6,000 slashed to just 214.

CHARLIE, the beer-swilling parrot, was feeling blue after his owner called time on his use of foul language. Licensee Jim Willetts vowed to clean up Charlie's bawdy banter after customers complained at The Swan in Amblecote.

PUPILS from Uplands Junior School in Finchfield were left upset after their visit to the House of Commons was called off due to the General Election. But they cheered up when the Queen invited them to see the State opening of Parliament procession from the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

1993...

A FLOWER arranger from Wordsley won a top international award for her traditional arrangement of fresh flowers. Elaine Williams came first in her class at the World Association of Flower Arrangers championships in Canada.

WALSALL swimmer Nick Gillingham produced his fastest ever 100m backstroke swim at the European trials in Sheffield. It was his first competitive race since winning the 200m bronze medal at the Barcelona Olympics.

POOR weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of competitors at a Penkridge school's It's A Knockout-style tournament. Pupils at Penkridge Middle School raised more than £500 for school funds after taking on obstacles such as the Killer Hill water slide.

2003...

A WOLVERHAMPTON grandfather was preparing to fly to Puerto Rico for a world championship after smashing a British sprinting record at the age of 75. Alan Meddings, of Tettenhall, sliced a full second off the previous over-75s world record for the 100m at the British Championships in Derby.

MORE than 1,000 of Wolverhampton's 27,000 street lights were replaced over a 12-month period. The move came as part of a renewal programme to help reduce residents' fear of crime.

WOLVES chairman Sir Jack Hayward celebrated his 80th birthday at a family reunion, but said his best present was the club's promotion to the Premier League. Sir Jack said he still would not believe his team were in the top flight until he got to see the fixture list.

LETTERS

Let's have our own leisure centre

I HAVE written before on the demolition of Coseley Baths in 2009, and the money that has been spent on Stourbridge's Leisure Centre.

Now it seems Stourbridge is in for another windfall of two and a half million pounds from the lottery to be spent on Mary Stevens Park, yet only £2m was needed to repair the well-used Coseley baths. Now all we have in Coseley is a derelict piece of land where it once stood.

Don't get me wrong, I'm all in favour of preserving our parks, historic buildings, and swimming pools, but when vast amounts of money, even if it is lottery funding, has been continuously spent in one part of the Dudley Borough, while other parts are not having their fair share of funding for their amenities it goes against the grain with me. We in Coseley are being charged for amenities that we are not receiving.

Also in 1999 two plans were issued for public consultation for Coseley playing fields/park. One was chosen but today only part of those plans has been carried out. It did include changing rooms to be renovated for those who play football there, but when the vandals struck it, it was demolished.

Same old story – vandals getting their own way, the innocents pay the price, and still no changing rooms for the footballers.

Why can't Coseley have its own swimming pool/leisure centre? We had one before, and it catered for all ages.

What are Coseley councillors doing to rectify this situation? Let's see them cut the red tape on the opening of a new leisure centre/swimming pool in Peartree Lane, Coseley, and keep us on a par with the other boroughs.

P A JORDAN
Peartree Lane
Coseley

Famous names who appeared at theatre

IN a conversation with my sister-in-law this weekend she told me you were receiving letters against demolishing Dudley Hippodrome.

As an ex-Midlander I would like to add my voice to that as in my courting days I spent many happy hours there, seeing lots of names that went on to become very famous.

My late husband who was studying at Birmingham University often recounted the tale of meeting Stan Laurel on a bus (it was the 125 service) going from Dudley to Birmingham Hippodrome where they, Laurel & Hardy, were due to appear.

I would love to think, when visiting the area that I could go to the theatre there again. I also have many good memories of the Express & Star which we had every evening.

NORMA HYDE
Cranwell Village
Linconshire

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Stourbridge.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Politicians are to blame for atrocities

NO-ONE in their right mind would condone the barbaric murder of Drummer Lee Rigby, and to describe his killers as animals is an insult to every other species of animal.

Those Muslim community leaders who have unreservedly condemned the murder deserve our praise and those who haven't deserve nothing but contempt and condemnation.

All that said, the ranting words of one of the alleged killers should not be ignored.

The danger is they will be, by politicians as they continue to try to justify our interference in other countries' internal affairs, and as they stay in denial of their part in the deaths of victims of radicalised Islamists and, of course, the continued pointless waste of our troops' lives in Afghanistan.

The killing of Lee Rigby will achieve nothing. What it has done is left yet another innocent family grieving and given white extremists an excuse to attack the majority of decent Muslims, along with the radical minority, when they ought to be verbally attacking the real culprits in Parliament.

R A SARGEANT
Dudley

Parking changes threaten traders

IN your coverage of the disabled parking issue in Stourbridge you failed to mention the clandestine nature of the operation, carried out overnight without consultation.

The whole of Drury Lane has been given over to disabled parking, leaving no normal parking there.

It is unsuitable for disabled parking, being away from the shops and on a slope, treacherous in winter. As to shops having to compromise, I have been in retail for 50 years and know that the loss of 10 parking spaces can turn a profitable business into a basket case.

Needless to say Drury Lane parking spaces are now empty all day while the local shops suffer a loss of trade. Another nail in the Stourbridge coffin before Tesco bangs the lid down.

J E TENNENT
Eggington Road
Wollaston

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Mrs Anderson, *Hayley Green*

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MEMORY LANE

The Bridge, Walsall, showing the original 18th century George Hotel, left. Nothing survives of this scene

Walsall District General – Sister Dora – Hospital, Wednesbury Road, around 1896. It was demolished for modern apartments

Walsall Science and Art Institute, Bradford Place, circa 1896. The building is now being used as offices

The Old Woolpack, a Tudor pub in Walsall High Street, demolished in 1892, replaced by shops

The Grand Theatre, corner of Park Street and Station Street, circa1896. Superdrug stands on the spot today

Peeking into past with town's picture album

by Stuart Williams

AT WALSALL Local History Centre there are thousands of local photographs, from the early 1860s to the present day.

Such collections are obviously the first place to look for historic images. But there is another rich source of photographs – old books.

From the late Victorian era, when photography was hugely popular, there was a fashion for books to be published focusing on towns, counties, or local worthies and businesses.

Many included photos, some of a very high standard, given the limitations on print quality at the time.

Books like town guides were a matter of civic pride, and these as well as others such as trade directories, albums promoting local places and businesses, and yet more commemorating events, are all worth looking at for that rare historic picture.

One particularly interesting book is The Walsall Album, published by William Henry Robinson in 1898. It showcases buildings which were already historic in Victorian times. Many have long since disappeared, or have changed appearance.

Extraordinary

Thanks to Mr Robinson, a prominent local newspaper editor, printer, publisher, author, astronomer and leading light of the Walsall Literary Institute, some extraordinary images of Walsall, Bloxwich, Rushall and Great Barr have been preserved.

These are through photographs commissioned by him, a few of which, taken by Draycott of Walsall, are reproduced here.

The Walsall Album also offers a fascinating slice of industrial and business life in the town in the many full-page adverts. While Walsall is famous for its saddlery trade, it becomes obvious, when reading this book and others, that it was just one of many in the 'Town of a Hundred Trades'.

Remarkable books such as this and South Staffordshire Illustrated (c1899), Walsall Past and Present (1905), the Walsall Red Books (1872-1939), and more, offer a fascinating insight into how the Victorians saw themselves as well as revealing many lost townscapes. All are waiting to be rediscover among the thousands of historic volumes preserved in the Local Studies Library at Walsall Local History Centre.

Prints of pictures are available to purchase, as well as a wide range of books. For local and family history, drop into the centre in Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council. Telephone 01922 721305. For details see www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre

Bridge Street Congregational Chapel, Bridge Street, Walsall, circa 1896. It was demolished to make way for a 1960s office building

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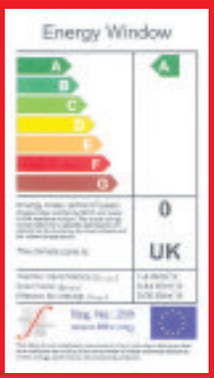

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NEWS

Government pledge over privatising fire service

WEST Midlands Fire Service will not be privatised, a government minister has pledged. The promise came in response to a call for reassurance from a Black Country MP during a debate in Parliament.

by Daniel Wainwright

Adrian Bailey, Labour MP for West Bromwich West, said people had been alarmed by fire service minister Brandon Lewis' letter to a regulatory committee saying that fire and rescue authorities should be able to contract out 'some or all' of their services.

Mr Bailey said: "The fact is that, as part of his drive to make further savings, he wants to remove, as he said in his letter, the legal obstacles to the privatisation of the emergency fire services.

"Given that West Midlands Fire Service is already two years into a programme to cut its budget by nearly a quarter, and has lost nearly 10 per cent of its firefighters, my constituents will regard with alarm." Mr Bailey was then cut off by Speaker John Bercow who pressed him to ask a question.

Mr Bailey continued: "Will the minister assure my constituents that these moves will not result in a privatised, non-publicly accountable emergency fire service?"

Mr Lewis replied: "I have made clear on more than one occasion that we will not privatise the fire service, notwithstanding the scaremongering of members of his party.

"He should also note, if he is not already aware of it, that West Midlands fire service is currently advertising for firefighters."

In his letter Mr Lewis said: "Fire and rescue authorities should be able to adopt alternative models for the delivery, under contract, for some or all of their services. Certain provisions in existing legislation preclude some services from being delivered by alternative providers."

On cress of a wave

Lydia England shows her skills with watercress

A WEST Midlands student has cooked her way to the top in a national competition at a festival celebrating the quintessential British delicacy – watercress.

Lydia England took to the stage at the annual Watercress Festival in Alresford, Hampshire, for her first-ever live recipe demonstration after gaining the title of the Great British Watercress Cook Off Champion 2013.

Fighting off stiff competition from chefs, cookery teachers and amateur cooks, 21-year-old Lydia, from Kidderminster, impressed the panel of judges with her watercress and goat's cheese tart with walnut pastry.

Not only did the dish have to taste fantastic, but Lydia had to prove she had enough showmanship to keep the crowds at the Watercress Festival entertained.

She managed both and earned £2,000 and a trophy. Lydia's interest in watercress was sparked when watercress farmer Dr Steve Rothwell visited the University of Reading, where she is a student.

He spoke about its health properties and explained how two pioneering university studies had revealed watercress was an important element in the fight against cancer.

Run by British watercress farmers, the Great British Watercress Cook Off aims to encourage the nation to use the 'superfood' more.

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Chains line up for site before plans submitted

MAJOR chains have already expressed serious interest in taking on a supermarket planned for a Black Country village – before any proposals have been submitted.

The development, including a 91-space car park, was recently announced and, if approved, will be built, in Zoar Street, Gornal, on land between Red Hall Primary School and Zoar Church.

Bosses behind the scheme revealed they were already in talks with supermarket chains which had shown interest in the development.

A deal has been reached with chemists Eggintons to become part of the new development – with its building likely to be demolished as part of the scheme.

It has not yet been decided if the chemist would be inside the new supermarket or in an annexe to the site.

A plot of land to the rear of the street would also be used for the supermarket and car park.

Ian Cole, of CH Properties, who owns the land, said he had wanted to do something with the site for a long time and a supermarket seemed the perfect development.

"I am a Gornal lad and there has been a lack of facilities in the village for a very long time. Residents and traders have been calling for more car parking," he said.

"This scheme will provide that. I have been in business in the village for a very long time and I hope this will give something back to the community."

He said plans were still being drawn up.

Carjacker is sent to jail

A MASKED robber who bundled a terrified woman out of her car and drove off in the vehicle has started a six-year jail sentence.

Ricky Butler struck as the 57-year-old carer called to check the address of her next appointment, a judge heard.

The engine of the car was running when Butler suddenly appeared alongside the parked vehicle in Glebefields Road, Tipton, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Prosecutor Mr Mark Phillips explained: "The driver's door was opened by a man wearing a hoodie who had his face covered. He unclipped the seatbelt of the woman who was very scared. He grabbed her by the collar and tried to pull her out. She resisted but he used increasing amounts of strength to remove her."

The head of the carer repeatedly struck the door frame before she was tugged out and left on the ground as Butler, 24, drove off. The attack happened at 6pm on February 21.

Motorist

The victim flagged down a motorist who alerted police, the court heard.

Officers spotted the stolen car in nearby Tame Road where Butler ran off before he knocked on the door of a house.

Butler, who was found on one of the beds, was forensically linked to the stolen car, said the prosecutor. Father-of-one Butler, from Sycamore Road, Tipton, admitted robbery and driving while disqualified. He had 15 previous convictions for robbery, attempted robbery and assault with intent to rob.

He had been banned from the roads for drink-driving and was on bail for an unrelated assault when he stole the car, the court was told.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said: "He has a predilection to the use of alcohol."

Butler was sent to prison and banned from driving for a further four years by Judge Nicholas Webb who told him: "You are a determined and incorrigible robber."

Cook shops up for sale

MIDLANDS Co-op Travel shops in Stafford and Great Barr and a Thomas Cook shop in West Bromwich have been put on the market.

They are among 195 sites Thomas Cook is looking to close to save costs.

It has appointed retail agency Prime Retail to find buyers for 151 of those where leases are still running.

The Midlands Co-op Travel stores are in Walsall Road, Great Barr, and Stafford Street, Stafford, with leases until October 2016. The Great Barr store is still open but Stafford is shut.

Tesco changing the face of town for ever

A worker paints some of the steel work inside

The Tesco and Crown Centre redevelopment in Stourbridge

WITH it's towering frame and white walls, the new multi-million Tesco development is changing the landscape of Stourbridge town centre.

Work is due to be completed later this year with the store, which will employ more than 300, expected to open before Christmas.

Contractors from Bowmer & Kirkland have been on site for more than a year and the development is being built where the former Crown Centre and multi-storey car park in Bell Street once stood.

Both were demolished last year as the first stage of the long-awaited £50million project got under way.

Since then workers have been busy constructing the underground car park, which will have around 500 spaces, and the shopping floors.

Chairman of Stourbridge Township Council Margaret Scott said she was pleased with how the project was progressing.

"It's coming along really well, they have done a lot of work so far. It should be wonderful when it is finished," she said. The development will include a new shopping centre and a town square.

Lights will be installed on Stourbridge town hall as part of work to revamp the square to make it more attractive to shoppers. The side of the town hall will form part of the square along with the entrance to the shopping centre.

Group of cheeleaders find permanent home

AN award-winning cheerleading group have secured a deal to move into a new permanent home in Brierley Hill.

Black Country Rebels Dance Group won top awards at the recent British Cheerleading Association National Championships held in Telford.

It has brought an influx of new members resulting in officials needing to find a new home.

They will be moving onto the Delph Industrial Estate, in Delph Road, during the course of the next month.

Rebels chairman Tina Bowen said: "We have gone from strength to strength and it is great that we are going to have this new permanent home."

Black Country Rebels formed in 2011 and now has around 50 members, aged from four to 25.

They met at venues including Richardson Hall, in Wordsley, before making strides to find their own home.

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NEWS

Court security staff are to be caretakers as well

SECURITY guards will have to change light bulbs and repair fixtures and fittings at magistrates' and crown courts, prompting concerns safety will be compromised.

Staff who check bags, confiscate weapons and respond to trouble in court, are being trained to upkeep the buildings in a bid to save costs. But the role merger has been slammed by the Public and Commercial Services union who say the safety of victims, witnesses and the public could be put at risk. Global security giant G4S, which manages 28 courts across the West Midlands, is behind the plans. Around 40 staff in the region could be affected.

The company has a £300 million government contract to provide security, cleaning and maintenance for five years at 340 Ministry of Justice sites. Currently, contractors are called in for maintenance works.

Andrew Lloyd, Midlands regional secretary of the PCS union, said: "My initial response would be that this will of course compromise security.

"These people play a vital role in keeping order in our courts and for them to effectively be asked to be do a caretaker's job on top of their principal duties is outrageous.

G4S spokesman Michael Baker said staff would do their extra jobs during quieter periods. He said: "A key part of our successful bid to manage security and facilities at courts for the Ministry of Justice was to give additional training to some security staff so they are also able to provide some general maintenance tasks."

Owners of bikes sought

POLICE are searching for the owners of two mountain bikes recovered in Kidderminster. One mountain bike is a golden orange and the other was a red, purple and black Diamond Back mountain bike. It had two Tioga mountain bike wheels and tyres. Any owner who has had a bike stolen, can contact 101, quoting incident 111-s-010613.

Laura's flower power

Laura Leong who has won a gold at the famous Chelsea Flower Show

A DUDLEY florist has achieved a life goal after winning her first gold medal and a top accolade with her exhibit at this recent Chelsea Flower Show.

Laura Leong, aged 41, from Kingswinford, has spent almost a 25 years honing her craft to become a floral designer, lecturer and demonstrator. She struck gold with her third exhibit at the event. It led to her being named the show's florist of the year, beating off competition from contestants across the UK. Her design incorporated a 3D whirlpool effect using succulents and cream-coloured orchids.

"To receive this is a realisation of a dream," said Mrs Leong. "It was so nerve-wracking."

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Hospice says thanks to its volunteers

BOSSES at Compton Hospice have thanked their volunteers at an awards evening during National Volunteers Week. The event was at Penn Bowling Club.

The hospice relies on more than 800 volunteers, who outnumber paid workers by almost four to one.

Maggie Perry, volunteer co-ordinator, said: "Compton Hospice would not be able to deliver the vast range of services it does without the support of volunteers."

Jean Johnson, Compton's longest-serving volunteer, having been with the charity since it opened in 1982, said: "There hasn't been one single occasion where I have thought this isn't for me."

£40k bill for taxpayers in legal battle over rubbish

A LONG-RUNNING legal row between council bosses in Wolverhampton and the company that burns the city's rubbish has been settled – with taxpayers forking out £40,000.

The cost has been incurred to settle a dispute over who pays costly landfill taxes of £56 a ton whenever the incinerator in Crown Street is not working.

The row broke out because the green taxes were introduced after the city signed a deal with Wolverhampton Waste Services in 1996 and there was no provision in the contract to deal with them.

The company runs the incinerator on a deal lasting until 2023. But for the past three years the council and the company have been fighting over who should foot the bill for green taxes.

Diverted

The battle has cost the council £40,000 which it must pay to WWS to settle legal costs while they settled the matter out of court.

The figure emerged in the minutes of a behind-closed-doors meeting of Wolverhampton City Council's ruling Labour cabinet that were published online.

Mel Ryan, spokesman for Wolverhampton City Council, said: "This matter relates to the liability for the payment of landfill tax.

"This was incurred when planned and unplanned shutdowns of the incinerator meant that waste had to be diverted to landfill."

Landfill Tax was introduced after a contract was signed between the council and incinerator company and therefore provision had not been made for responsibility for paying the tax."

Health body unveils priorities for the year

THE organisation that has taken over responsibility for healthcare in Wolverhampton has set out its priorities for the coming year.

It said it was tackling diabetes, looking at how patients access urgent care and doing more for those affected by dementia.

Wolverhampton City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has replaced the city's Primary Care Trust as part of a huge government shake-up of the way healthcare is run in the UK.

Its new integrated commission plan has put forward the three issues which it says it will focus on in the coming months.

As part of the work, a review has been launched into urgent care in the city.

Bosses say they are considering closing one of the two walk-in health centres in Parkfields and Low Hill as part of an overhaul ahead of a new £28 million accident and emergency department planned for New Cross Hospital.

The new department, which would be three times as big as the existing one, would include a walk-in centre.

Pressure

They are also looking at how the under-pressure A&E department at the hospital as well as the GP out-of-hours service operates.

Spokeswoman Filippa St Aubin d'Ancey said: "We want to improve the service so that it is less confusing, higher quality and can meet the demands upon it."

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NEWS

College is ranked with the best by inspectors

DUDLEY College has been named in the top 10 per cent in England by Ofsted inspectors who heaped praise on its £30 million Learning Quarter scheme.

The scheme provides 'outstanding' accommodation and resources for students, inspectors said.

The Learning Quarter includes the Dudley Evolve vocational campus, which opened last September on the site of the former fire station in Tower Street.

A £6m manufacturing and engineering complex – called Dudley Advance – is also planned for a site off Priory Road.

Principal Lowell Williams said the report highlighted the college's 'positive impact' on the town and the community.

The Ofsted report ranked all areas of the college as 'good' or better, noting the college's many outstanding features. Inspectors particularly praised the college for its 'very high' success rates, 'outstanding' accommodation and resources across the new quarter. The college's visual arts provision area was also said to be 'outstanding'.

Mr Williams said: "We have ambitious plans for Dudley College over the next decade and now have a strong foundation.

"With every area graded good or better we are now firmly ranked in the top 10 per cent of colleges in England. It's fantastic that the report repeatedly refers to the college as 'outstanding', 'excellent', 'impressive' and 'effective'. These comments are testimony to the exceptional hard work of all of our staff, students and governors."

Choir to chart ages of man

A CHOIR is to perform a work called The Ages Of Man in Wolverhampton. The Wombourne and District Choral Society will sing a journey of the various stages of life. The concert is on July 13 at Beckminster Methodist Church, Birches Barn Road, Penn, at 7.30pm. Entry is £8, under-16s free.

A steaming good rally

Brian Harris, of Ellesmere, with his Garrett roller, dog Jasper, Robert Bate, of Wolverhampton, and Tom Sanders

THOUSANDS of families turned out to enjoy the annual Steam and Vintage Rally in the Black Country.

This year's event had more exhibits than ever, despite the fact bosses scrapped the popular parade as part of a bid to save costs.

An array of traction engines and motorcycles were on show along with vintage organs, stationary steam engines and working equipment from the past, as well as vintage and modern day funfairs, trade stalls and a craft marquee.

Vintage buses were also doing trips around West Park, Wolverhampton for youngsters to enjoy.

Among the residents to attend was Liz Blundell, of Paget Road, Wolverhampton, who went along with her sons Thomas, aged two, and James, aged six.

She said: "It is a great family day out. The engines have been brilliant to look at and the boys even got to sit in a fire engine which they enjoyed. They also liked the stalls and the tombolas as well as the rides. The weather has been brilliant as well."

Also in attendance was Dan Griffin, of Blackheath, who took along his three and a half gauge Britannia built by his grandad in 1954.

The 39-year-old said: "We have had a lot of interest. When people found out how old it was they were quite impressed."

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Start date for work on homes

WORK on 250 new homes on the site of the former British Sugar beet processing complex at Kidderminster is expected to start in the autumn.

Housebuilders Bovis and Taylor Wimpey have bought 15 acres of land at Silverwoods. The building work will kick-start the regeneration of the 74-acre site, which was bought by regeneration specialist St Francis Group in 2006, following the closure of British Sugar's operation in 2004.

Company's big engineering project takes to the road

The silo starts its journey

BLACK Country workmanship will be keeping a power station going after a massive silo was dispatched from a manufacturing plant.

The silo, which is 47ft long, 14ft wide and weighs 10 tons, went to Drax power station in Yorkshire, from Kingswinford. It was made by stainless steel fabricators Pressvess and carefully loaded on to a specialist lorry before travelling through town at slow speed at the start of its eight-hour journey.

Pressvess works manager Lee Deakin said at its destination the silo was being installed by members of the team at the Stallings Lane-based company. He said: "This is part of a large contract. Everything went without a problem."

Pressvess was commissioned to design, build and install the lime dosing silo by Halesowen-based air filtration specialists Lodge Cotterell. It is among several power station projects Pressvess is doing with Lodge Cotterell.

It is part of a new plant being built at the site which will recycle waste materials from the power station.

Pressvess is looking for more workers to cope with demand. There are vacancies for two plater welders to join the 45 current employees. Call 07760 558689 for details.

Firms get tax forms warning

EMPLOYERS are being reminded to get expenses and benefits forms filed on time or risk hefty penalties.

Tax expert Anita Stewart said many employers often left it late and would incur a daily charge if they missed the July 6 deadline.

The Revenue has been increasing checks on tax returns and the benefits and expenses which are recorded on a P11D form. Missing the deadline means a £300 penalty plus £60 for every additional day until the forms are received.

RAF veterans honoured

Albert Hazeldine, aged 84, Michael Brice, 66, and Royston Hemmings, 75

MORE than 100 National Service RAF veterans turned out for an annual parade to honour their contribution and meet old friends during a special event at RAF Cosford Museum.

Four veterans of the bomber command were there to be presented with a new clasp introduced in February, following a review of military decorations.

Among those to collect the Bomber Command Clasp was Donald Fraser from Whitchurch.

Among the National Service veterans in were Trevor Marklew, aged 74, from Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, John Brooks, 75, from Wall Heath and Peter Cook, 75, from Kingswinford.

Royston Hemmings, aged 75, from Hallchurch Road, Dudley, served with the RAF between 1956 and 1959.

Resignation call by MP over sleaze

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James said Tim Yeo, chairman of a powerful Commons committee who is facing allegations of sleaze, should step down if the accusations are true.

Tory MP Yeo has rejected claims made after a sting by journalists. But Ms James said the allegations were 'damning' and that paid consultancy posts and directorships were 'incompatible' with his role.

Mr Yeo referred himself to the parliamentary standards commissioner. It has been suggested that he coached a paying client on how to influence his committee. He has issued a detailed statement denying the claims.

West Brom's cash boost for hospice

A HOSPICE in Stourbridge has received a £600 cash boost thanks to a building society in the West Midlands.

The West Brom donated the cash to Mary Stevens Hospice after pledging to give a sum for everyone who attended its Members' ViewPoint meeting in Stourbridge.

Vicki Rowles, head of fundraising at the hospice, said: "We are very grateful for the West Brom's continued support.

"We rely on donations and fundraising initiatives so we can offer specialist care for people living with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses and also provide dedicated support for their families."

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High rents 'hit growth'

SKY-high rents and a lack of affordable homes are slowing the region's businesses, claim West Midlands Employers in a new survey.

The National Housing Federation and ComRes carried out research among some of the region's top businesses. They found 90 per cent of employers say the lack of affordable housing is stalling economic growth, with a further 81 per cent warning it would affect their ability to attract and keep workers.

Elizabeth Humphreys, of the National Housing Federation said: "If things don't change, employers will simply move."

Hospital boosts staff

AROUND 25 new staff are to be taken on at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton in a £1million drive to improve patient care.

Many of the new jobs will be for nurses, some of whom will be asked to take their post in the emergency services departments where the under pressure A&E has been struggling to cope.

Attendance rates at the department have soared to record levels and on April 17 it saw the most patients in its history come through the doors – 365 on a single day.

Health chiefs are also preparing to take on extra services if a £70 million downgrade of Stafford and Cannock Hospitals goes ahead.

The hospital said it is looking to take on regular staff nurses to allow the ward sisters and charge nurses to spend more time supervising the standards of care provided to patients.

It is hoped it will also free up the ward sisters and charge nurses to work with staff, including student nurses, and undertake audits and quality checks.

Bosses say it's hoped the new workers will be in place by the end of next month.

Chief Nurse Cheryl Etches said: "These changes are very welcome and will enable charge nurses and ward sisters to spend more time with patients and staff to make sure the quality of care is of a high standard and that patients and relatives are satisfied with their experience of care at the hospital."

Money for the appointments has come from government funding for projects which have a positive impact on care and people's experience at hospital.

The hospital is looking to save £21m this financial year but has pledged not to compromise on patient safety.

More than £6m of savings still have to be identified in this year's cuts, which will come from a wide range of departments across the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust.

Last year, the trust fell short of the £15m it hoped to save, with £6.5m cuts carried over into the 2013-14 budget.

Theatre group taking a wry look at restaurants

A THEATRE group in Stourbridge is staging an original play written by one of its members for its forthcoming show.

A Comedy Theatre Group has been busy in rehearsals for the performances which take place on June 14 and 15.

The play, entitled Eating Out – A Night at the Palace, takes a wry look at life in a high street restaurant.

Group leader Phill Liptrot said the company formed in 2010 with the aim of introducing people to live theatre and invited people to have a go at learning new skills.

This latest work is a new play written by Pete Williams, one of the founder members of the group.

"This is Pete's first attempt at writing a full play and he has come up with some excellent characters and a manic storyline for the actors to enjoy," said Mr Liptrot.

"The group is always on the lookout for new actors to be involved in future productions, and would also like to encourage local writers to use the group as a way of getting their scripts performed in public."

The play will take place at Gig Mill Methodist Church, in Glebe Lane, Norton, Stourbridge, with curtain up at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £4 in advance or £5 on the door.

For information and tickets email Phill at acome dytheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk or call 07954 692593.

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Sarah running the race for her mother

Kathryn Evans, Sarah Glynn, Fiona Ganner and Jill Spragg getting ready for their Race For Life challenge

A MOTHER of two from South Staffordshire has gone to great lengths to encourage more women to enter the Race For Life.

Sarah Glynn, a teaching assistant from Wheaton Aston, is determined to make a difference after losing her mother to cancer in January – and has had the message 'Beat it, cancer' painted on her body to capture the fighting spirit of this year's event.

She has rallied a team of 26 friends and family to join her in memory of her mother Kathryn Cowling. Thousands of women have entered the 5k events around the region, but organisers need more.

The 38-year-old said: "Mum was unbelievably strong and determined to be that one person who would beat cancer. She had a much bigger challenge on her hands so to take part in Race for Life is nothing.

"Now I want to be part of the huge, united force that is determined to beat cancer. But we can't do it alone."

Her mother, who lived near Bilbrook, died on January 10 – just six months after she was told she had secondary cancer.

"I'd prepared myself for the news it might be cancer but not for the fact it was going to be terminal. You feel so helpless."

Mrs Glynn and her team will join more than 2,000 at Race for Life in Wolverhampton's West Park on June 19.

The event will be especially poignant as the next day would have been her mother's 65th birthday. She will be cheered on by her father Terry, husband Paul and sons Jake, 15 and Thomas, 12.

Car sales enjoy bumper quarter

NEW car sales soared to their highest May level for six years on the back of bumper private purchases.

The big winners included Hyundai, Nissan, SEAT and Suzuki, while the three largest car companies – Ford Vauxhall and Volkswagen, all managed respectable sales hikes.

But there was a surprise drop in sales at West Midlands-based Land Rover, down by just 34 to 3,826. However, Land Rover sales so far this financial year are up 16 per cent, and sister company Jaguar enjoyed a, 11.8 per cent hike in its sales figures.

Aston Martin based in Warwickshire, and currently celebrating its centenary year, saw a 40 per cent spike in demand, selling 76 of its luxury sports cars in May.

But Longbridge-based MG only sold 13 of its cars, down 73 per cent on last May.

In total there were 180,111 new car registrations in May, an 11 per cent increase on the May 2012 total, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said.

Of the May 2013 total, more than 84,000 was made up of private sales, 20.9 per cent up on May last year and above pre-recession levels.

The latest figures took total new registrations for the year so far to 948,666, a 9.3 per cent rise on the January to May figure last year.

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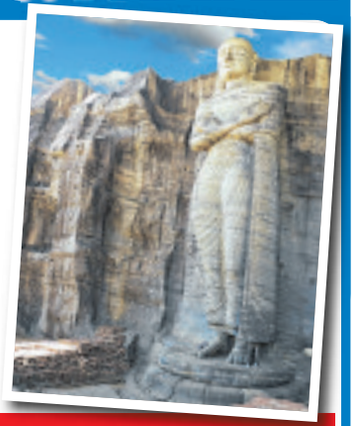
Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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NEWS

Hunger campaigners join big London rally

MORE than 100 campaigners from the West Midlands including people from Halesowen and Stourbridge joined a big public rally at London's Hyde Park on Saturday, to protest against hunger.

Katy Cook, 27, from Cradley Heath, was among people from the West Midlands who travelled to London as part of the Enough Food For Everyone IF campaign.

The campaign is calling for action by the leaders of the eight richest countries (G8) to eliminate hunger. Katy who is originally from Stourbridge, said: "One in eight people go to bed hungry every night. Every 15 seconds a child dies of hunger.

"I want Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and the G8 to take action to end hunger by investing in nutrition, end tax dodging, and to stop land grabs that use land for bio-fuels, not food.

"I want to be part of the generation to help end hunger."

Youth team idea to help tackle crime

A SERIES of youth crime commissioners could be appointed to represent areas of the West Midlands.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones has ruled out the idea of a single young person taking the role – saying it is 'too big a job'. But he revealed a board of youth commissioners could instead be appointed.

The idea came from a summit of more than 200 young people organised by Mr Jones.

He said he felt there would be too much pressure on one young person representing the whole West Midlands.

The posts, likely to be unpaid, would be filled through interviews later in the year.

Mr Jones said: "We are consulting on having one or two from each area very similar to way youth MPs work.

"They would come together periodically as a youth and crime commission for the West Midlands."

Landmark Co-op to get £600k revamp

Councillor Judy Foster with, left, Bob Blunt of Thomas Blunt Partnership which owns the building, Roy Pugh, of Jennings Homer & Lynch architects, Matt Wood from Speller Metcalfe contractors and Emma Pardoe, of Dudley Council's Townscape Heritage, looking forward to the revamp

A LANDMARK building on a gateway into Dudley town centre will be returned to its former glory as part of a £600,000 revamp project.

Work to restore the old Co-operative department store on Dudley High Street to its 1930s original appearance has got under way.

Original tiles and coping stones will be cleaned and repaired while the metal-framed windows will be restored.

Contractors will also bring back the original fascias, currently obscured behind modern signs, to reinstate the historic shop front.

The building, which dates back to 1939, was originally designed by Dudley-based architects, Webb and Gray and was built by Dudley contractor, Mark Round and Sons.

It was originally faced in cream and blue tiles, made by the Stourbridge Glazed Brick Company.

Merger

The building was opened as the Co-operative's central department store in 1939. It sold goods across four floors before it closed as a Co-op in 1983 following a merger between the Dudley and Birmingham Societies. Work on the building is expected to be completed in the autumn.

Dudley's regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster said: "The regeneration of Dudley town centre has accelerated greatly over the last years and this restoration project is another exciting step forward. The work will ensure the gateway into the town at the top of the High Street next to Top Church is significantly improved for all visitors to the town.

"As part of our Love Your Community campaign, Dudley Council is committed to being a community council and this sensitive restoration scheme is part of improving the buildings and the environment for borough residents and visitors."

The six-month project is being carried out through Dudley Council's Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Paperweights set to shine at museum day

WEIGHTY matters will be afoot at Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum, with the return of the annual Paperweight Day.

Highlights of the event, on Sunday, will include demonstrations of glass paperweight-making, specialist dealers selling their wares and a paperweight identification service. The Paperweight Collector's Circle will host an exhibition featuring work by the Ysart family and a display of their famous Monart designs.

The Ysarts, a Spanish family who made their home In Perth, Scotland, in the 1920s, are famed for their innovative glassware, characterised by vibrant marbled colours combined with subtle hues and inclusions of mica flecks and bubbles.

The event, at the museum in Compton Drive, runs from 10am to 4pm and admission is free.

MP backs drive on avoidable sight loss

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James is backing a campaign to raise awareness of the early signs of avoidable sight loss.

The campaign is run by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). It aims to help people spot the signs of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which is the biggest cause of sight loss in the UK.

The charity says the signs include straight lines starting to appear wavy, curved or distorted and small print becoming difficult to read even when wearing reading glasses.

Ms James said: "I am pleased to support this very important campaign. Losing one's sight is a terrible experience, and where it can be avoided we should make sure that people have all the information, so that they can get prompt treatment.

"I hope that this campaign will help inform people about the risks of age-related macular degeneration."

NEWS

Severn Valley volunteers given royal recognition

VOLUNTEERS who work tirelessly to keep the Severn Valley Railway on track have had their outstanding achievement recognised by the Queen.

A group of 1,300 volunteers carry out a tasks from rebuilding bridges to restoring locomotives.

Railway bosses say without their 'passion, commitment and enthusiasm' the heritage line between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth could not continue to operate.

The team has now been given The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to coincide with the 60th anniversary of her Coronation.

In celebration of the achievement, four long-standing volunteers from the Severn Valley Railway – Hugh McQuade, Columb Howell, Gary Williams and Martin White – were invited to sample some Royal hospitality at The Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Revealed

The four rubbed shoulders with the Queen, Princess Eugenie and the Princess Royal, who revealed she is a steam enthusiast after once being invited to drive a steam train.

A commemorative piece of crystal and certificate signed by the Queen will shortly be presented to the railway by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire and will be displayed in pride of place.

Mr Howell, who was among the Preservation Group which relaunched the railway in 1965 and whose main role is now volunteer driver, described the award as a great honour.

Mario's mighty motor on show

From left are Ricky Brown, Steve Bishop, Terry Aston and Matt Bishop with the jet turbine Mario cart and a model Red Arrows Hawk aircraft

WHAT is claimed to be the world's first jet powered racing cart will be one of the main attractions at this year's International Model Air Show at Weston Park.

Father and son team Steven and Matthew Bishop, have put a scaled-down jet turbine, similar to that of a Boeing 747, in a model car and painted it in the style of the popular game hero Mario. Steven, aged 51, and his 24-year-old son believe the car has a top speed of around 180 miles per hour. Steven said: "We've done this for the children, but now we've got bookings for it from all over the world. We've always built model jets but it's been a dream of mine to put a jet engine in a vehicle."

Mr Bishop got the opportunity to fulfil his dream last year when company 27Three displayed their model cars at the air show.

He said: "It looks so comical, it's a small car with only enough room for one person but it's so noisy. It's also fast. We think it is the world's first." The pair both belong to the Wrekin Model Flying Club. It will be officially displayed at the model air show from June 14 to 16.

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NEWS

Man stole £1,000 from his dying father to pay debts

A GAMBLER stole £1,000 from his dying father by stealing cheques and making them payable to himself while supposedly caring for him, a court heard.

Carl Pruden made his father Gary's final months unbearable after his crime was uncovered, his brother said.

Carl Pruden was last week given a community order for stealing the money from his father, who died aged 66 from lung cancer in February.

Pruden, aged 31 of Carnegie Road, Rowley Regis, pleaded guilty to fraud. He stole blank cheques and made payments to himself for £1,000 between August last year and January this year, to help with gambling problems.

Gary Pruden

Pruden's brother Wayne, who said his father told him to call the police when they discovered the fraud, said he hated his sibling and could not forgive him for what he did. The 36-year-old of Abbey Square, Mossley, said: "I haven't spoken to Carl since I found out. I hate him to be honest.

"When we found out I did what my dad said – he told me to go to the police and take it to court. His words were 'I can't believe he's done this to me'."

Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, told Sandwell Magistrates' Court that Sarah Roberts, Wayne's girlfriend was in charge of Gary Pruden's finances. She discovered the theft.

Magistrates sentenced Pruden to a community order for 12 months, during which he will be supervised and given assistance with his gambling problem. He was also ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid work, and must pay back the £1,000.

Walk raises £180,000

Around 5,000 people walked the route from Molineux Stadium including Free Radio's breakfast presenters Fresh and Cat

MORE than £180,000 has been raised for good causes after 5,000 people turned out for a charity walk in the Black Country.

The 13-mile route started and finished at the Molineux Stadium and also took in Himley Hall.

The event raised £182,106 for local charities, Acorns Children's Hospice, Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, Promise Dreams and Hope House Children's Hospice, Shropshire.

The money will help pay for a specialist incubator at Dudley's Russells Hall while Promise Dreams will use the cash to help seriously ill children fulfil their dreams. Hope House will use the money to refurbish their pond.

Acorns Children's Hospice will use their slice of the fundraising for refurbishment projects.

Organisers say they are delighted with the amount raised and thanked the thousands who took part. The event was set up by Free Radio.

The radio station's breakfast presenters Fresh and Cat said: "This year the Free Radio Walk for Kids has really caught the imagination of our listeners and the people of the Black Country. It was great to see so many happy faces."

REVIEW

Ghost The Musical
Grand Theatre

IF there is anything likely to boost the attendance at pottery classes this is it! The smash-hit musical Ghost, direct from the West End, is simply out of this world.

And although that memorable potter's wheel part of the film seemed to be passed over quickly the packed Grand Theatre was still held spellbound by the dazzling state-of-the-art staging and terrific effects.

Based on the Oscar-winning movie that captured the hearts of a generation in the 90s, Ghost is a timeless fantasy about the power of love. Sam is trapped as a ghost between this world and the next trying to communicate with girlfriend Molly through a phoney psychic in the hope of saving her from his murderer.

Moving

Stewart Clarke as Sam was unstoppable as he dashed around the stage, 'walking' through doors and pretending to be invisible and certainly had a very good voice. It must have been very hard for the rest of the cast to act as though he wasn't actually standing next to them.

Girlfriend Molly (Rebecca Trehearn) who gave a very moving performance. As well as the very poignant moments there were plenty of laughs thanks to the psychic Oda Mae Brown (Wendy Mae Brown).

Ghost continues at the Grand until Saturday.

SUE ATTWATER

Take That's Mark on the art of being busy doing nothing

WITH Take That taking their first major break since reuniting in 2006, superstar singer Mark Owen might be expected to be enjoying a well-deserved rest.

But instead the 41-year-old heart-throb from Oldham will be spending this month promoting his fourth solo album with a series of gigs – including a concert at The Institute in Birmingham tomorrow night (Friday).

The album, ironically entitled The Art of Doing Nothing, and its lead single Stars, were both released this week.

Solo album and summer tour for Take That's Mark Owen

Songs

According to Mark, he's not very good at doing nothing.

"I've been making songs for 20 years now and I don't really know what else to do," he said.

"It's my hobby and my day job all in one."

The album is his most collaborative to date, featuring a duet with Salford songstress Ren Harvieu and London rapper Jake Emlyn, who was recommended to him by Robbie Williams.

Tickets for Friday's gig at the venue in Digbeth High Street cost £25.

Stand-up star going Public in 'small' show

HIP comic Russell Kane is heading to the Black Country for a gig at West Bromwich venue The Public this autumn.

Edinburgh Comedy Award winner Kane is the biggest name yet to play the controversial arts centre and is due to appear on Saturday, October 5.

One of the most sought after stand-ups in the UK, the I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! Now!' presenter will be performing at the town centre venue as part of his nationwide Smallness tour.

The Jedward-haired stand-up will be taking a comic look at Britain's fascination with smallness.

Linda Saunders, managing director of The Public said: "We're absolutely thrilled that Russell Kane will bringing his new show to The Public in what is a real coup for West Bromwich."

Tickets are £17.50 and are available via www.thepublic.com or by calling 0121 533 7161.

Other comedy dates coming up at The Public include professional 'grumpy old woman' Jenny Eclair with her brand new show Eclarious on June 15, and Gina Yashere on October 19.

Russell Kane, pictured with small friend, has a Black Country date

Welsh opera triple choice

WELSH National Opera returns to Birmingham Hippodrome with three productions over four days.

WNO stage Richard Wagner's epic Lohengrin from 5.30pm today (Thursday) and Saturday, following Wagner Dream, Jonathan Harvey's bicentenary tribute to the German composer, last night.

They stage Puccini's Madam Butterfly tomorrow evening.

Artist's work in display spotlight

WALL Heath artist Keith Turley has an art exhibition at Dudley's Himley Hall until September 1.

The collection, called All in a Day's Work, includes paintings of people in different environments such as work and leisure.

Many of the paintings are large and each has taken months to prepare and complete.

There are also portraits, figures and landscapes with a local flavour.

Canal trip offers taste of adventure

ADVENTURERS can explore Dudley's tunnels with the Dudley Canal Trust on the first Sunday of the month.

The tour gives people the chance to travel the full 2,888m of the mighty Dudley tunnel and see the limestone mines and caverns in the 45 minute trip.

There is also a music and light show in the Singing Cavern. The cost is £11.80 for adults and £10.80 for seniors or children. For more information call 0121 557 6265.

School's fun day

LUTLEY Primary School holds a fun day in Brookwillow Road, Halesowen, on Saturday. The event is organised by the school's parents, teachers and friends' association to raise money for the school. There will be stalls, music and entertainment between noon and 3pm.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 15.06.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Huw Edwards

Trooping the Colour: The Queen's Birthday Parade Highlights BBC2, 6.30pm

As far as pomp and ceremony go, nobody does them quite like the Brits. And there's no event in the British calendar as grand, lavish or darn impressive as Trooping the Colour. Here, Huw Edwards introduces the best moments from this morning's military parade when the Queen's Colour was trooped by the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards at Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall, London, to mark the monarch's official birthday, with members of the royal family, invited guests and the public in attendance.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.30** Trooping the Colour: The Queen's Birthday Parade. **1.05** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.20** Tennis from Queen's. **5.25** A Question of Sport: A-Z. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 The Voice UK. Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates present the live semi-final, which sees the eight remaining acts perform individually before taking part in a group number with their coaches.

9.10 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Matt Johnson presents the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws, along with the Lotto Plus 5 results.

9.20 Casualty. Tom faces a dilemma about truth and confidentiality regarding an unborn baby's paternity, and Sam tries to help a man deal with his anger and give him a chance to save his marriage.

10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Brazil v Japan. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the opening match of the Confederations Cup, as the Group A sides met at the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia.

11.10 Film: No Strings Attached. (2011) Premiere. Two old friends try to have a purely sexual relationship, but find themselves falling in love nonetheless. Romantic comedy, starring Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher.

12.50 Weatherview. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.25 Film:** The Gay Diplomat. (1931) **7.30 Film:** The Fabulous Dorseys. (1947) **8.55** A History of Scotland. (R) **10.00** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.30** The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) **11.30** Nature's Great Events. (R) **12.30** Just a Minute. (R) **1.00** Live MotoGP. **2.00 Film:** Tim. (1979) **3.45** Coast. **4.15** Natural World: Tiger Island. (R) **5.15** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Dad's Army. The platoon plans to re-enact the battle between St George and the dragon as part of the Wings for Victory fundraising effort – unaware the ARP wardens have the same idea. (R)

6.30 Trooping the Colour: The Queen's Birthday Parade Highlights. Huw Edwards introduces the best moments from this morning's military parade when the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards trooped its colour to mark the Queen's official birthday.

8.00 Live International Rugby Union. Argentina v England (Kick-off 8.10pm). Coverage of the second fixture in a two-match series, as the sides meet at the Estadio Jose Amalfitani in Buenos Aires.

10.00 Film: A Serious Man. (2009) Premiere. A mild-mannered professor seeks spiritual advice as a series of disasters disrupts his life. Comedy, starring Michael Stuhlbarg and Richard Kind.

11.40 Film: Skeletons. (2010) Premiere. Two "emotional exorcists' able to psychically uncover people's dark secrets help a client find her missing husband. Fantasy, starring Ed Gaughan.

1.10 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.10** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.00** Jessie. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Saturday Farm. **12.35** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.35** The Chase. (R) **3.35** You've Been Framed! (R) **4.05 Film:** Happy Feet. (2006)

6.10 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.25 ITV News; Weather.

6.40 Film: Despicable Me. (2010) Premiere. An evil genius adopts three orphans to aid his latest plot, but fatherhood has a strange effect on him. Animated comedy, with the voices of Steve Carell and Jason Segel.

8.30 Goodbye Granadaland. Peter Kay bids a fond farewell to Granada Studios in Manchester, exploring the building from rooftop to basement and introducing archive clips from memorable shows produced there.

10.00 The Americans. The couple discover their murdered colleague Robert had a wife.

10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels. (1998) Four friends get out of their depth while trying to pay off a debt to a crime lord. Comedy, with Nick Moran.

1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **4.25** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** British Rallycross. **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Frasier. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Simpsons. (R) **12.35** Heston's Fantastical Food. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. Lloyd Cast hosts the final dinner party from the West Midlands. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 World's Weirdest Weather. Alex Beresford discovers how an unusual combination of weather phenomena created deadly storms in 1953, and investigates other strange water-related events such as giant hailstones. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants are challenged to place large quantities of the cash over trapdoors as they face a series of questions.

9.35 Film: Date Night. (2010) A married couple's romantic evening takes a dangerous turn when a case of mistaken identity leaves them on the run from gangsters. Comedy, with Tina Fey.

11.20 Film: Kingpin. (1996) Comedy, starring Woody Harrelson.

1.25 The Million Pound Drop Live. (R) **2.55** Friday Night In. (R) **3.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.30** ThunderCats. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.00** Big Brother: Live Launch Part 2. (R) **1.30** CSI: NY. (R) **2.20** CSI: NY. (R) **3.15** CSI: NY. (R) **4.10** CSI: NY. (R) **5.05 Film:** The Sea Wolves. (1980) Adventure, with Gregory Peck.

7.20 5 News Weekend.

7.25 NCIS. Tony becomes obsessed with finding a woman whose brother has been murdered. (R)

8.15 NCIS. The team investigates when a fellow agent's burnt body is discovered, and Gibbs can no longer avoid revealing what happened in Mexico as the case progresses. (R)

9.10 Big Brother: Secrets & Lies. Highlights of the past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, who this year has promised plenty of twists and turns and game-changing tasks.

10.10 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. New series. Spin-off show in which presenter AJ Odudu is joined by a panel of experts and psychologists to analyse the behaviour of the housemates.

11.10 Neighbours: This Week. Hour-long episode featuring highlights from Ramsay Street over the past week, when Steph stepped up her plan to win Lucas back and Georgia ended her relationship with Kyle.

12.10 SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Match of the Day Live. Brazil v Japan (Kick-off 8.00pm). **10.00 Film:** Con Air (1997) **11.50** Family Guy

BBC Four

7.00 Oceans **8.00** The Riviera: A History in Pictures **9.00** Wallander: Sidetracked **10.25** The Beach Boys: Doin' It Again **11.20** The Beach Boys: Live at Knebworth

ITV2

2.50 Film: Dragonheart (1996) **4.50** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: LOL Moments **5.55** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: Singers & Dancers **6.55** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: Cutest Moments Ever **8.00** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: Most Amazing Moments **9.00 Film:** 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **11.10** Lemon La Vida Loca **11.55** Britain's Got More Talent Best & Worst: LOL Moments

ITV3

3.55 Foyle's War **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** Blue Murder **11.30** Wire in the Blood

ITV4

2.30 Lonesome Dove **6.30** British Touring Car Championship **8.00** The Motorbike Show **9.00** Hell on Wheels **10.00 Film:** Buried (2010)

E4

3.00 Made in Chelsea **4.00** Rules of Engagement **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** The Mindy Project **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00 Film:** Hitman (2007) **10.50** The Inbetweeners **11.55** The Big Bang Theory

Film4

2.45 The Truman Show (1998) **4.40** Picture Perfect (1997) **6.40** Pride (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Terrence Howard. **9.00** Devil (2010) **10.35** Cellular (2004)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 16.06.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Rebecca Ferguson

The White Queen
BBC1, 9pm
After weeks of trailers, this epic, 10-part drama based on Philippa Gregory's best-selling, fact-based novel about three women's quest for power in 15th-century England – Elizabeth Woodville, Margaret Beaufort and Anne Neville. It begins with Elizabeth down on her luck, having been widowed when her husband was killed fighting for the deposed Lancastrian King Henry VI. Now destitute, her only hope of supporting her two young sons, is to use her beauty to capture the heart of her family's greatest enemy, young York King Edward IV.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. Sue Barker introduces coverage of the final of the Wimbledon warm-up event, held at the Queen's Club in London. Coverage continues on BBC2. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Earthflight. (R)
6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison head to north Wales, where he visits Rhyl for an annual festival of forestry and she explores a strange and wonderful coastal habitat. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts return to the North Yorkshire town of Scarborough, where items include a silver container found on a building site, a paperweight from Churchill's desk and a tiara.
9.00 The White Queen. New series. Epic historical drama set against the backdrop of the Wars of the Roses. King Edward IV causes controversy by marrying a commoner. Rebecca Ferguson and Max Irons star.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day Live. Spain v Uruguay (Kick-off 11.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening Group B match in the Confederations Cup, staged at the Arena Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil.
1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.45 Film:** Love Affair. (1939) **8.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Chinese Food Made Easy. (R) **12.00** What to Eat Now. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. **2.05** EastEnders. (R) **4.00** Flog It! **5.00** Tennis from Queen's.
6.30 Porridge. (R)
7.00 Peter Jones Meets. The Dragons' Den star chats to Michael Acton Smith, the CEO of entertainment company Mind Candy, and Laura Tenison, founder of maternity wear and baby clothing firm JoJo Maman Bebe.
8.00 Operation Snow Tiger. Part two of two. Cameraman Max Hug Williams follows a tiger to see if she has new cubs, while Liz Bonnin searches for another female that has gone missing.
9.00 Rise of the Continents. Iain Stewart examines the effect of Australia's formation and development on Aboriginal history, modern-day mining and the evolution of its unique wildlife.
10.00 Blackadder II. A bloodthirsty bishop menaces Edmund. (R)
10.30 Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R)
11.00 What a Load of Buzzcocks. Highlights of the comedy quiz and music news stories from 2004. (R)
11.30 Film: Valhalla Rising. (2009) Premiere. Adventure, starring Mads Mikkelsen.
12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)
1.50 Holby City. (R) **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.10** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30 Film:** Agatha Christie's The Man in the Brown Suit. (1989) **1.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.30** A Touch of Frost. (R) **4.35 Film:** Batteries Not Included. (1987)
6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Kym Lomas, Rav Wilding and Dennis Taylor answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine, hoping to collect £20,000 for their chosen charity.
8.00 Agatha Christie's Marple. New series. The sleuth confronts dark magic while investigating the death of a fellow holiday-maker in the Caribbean. Julia McKenzie stars, with Antony Sher and Robert Webb.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 The Talent Show Story. The history of TV talent contests, beginning with Susan Boyle discussing her breakthrough on BGT, and how Will Young beat Gareth Gates in Pop Idol. (R)
11.20 Drama Trails.
12.15 The Store. **2.15** Monk. (R) **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **6.10** The Treacle People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** The Hoobs. (R) **7.10** Transvulcania. **7.35** London Nocturne. **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25 Film:** The Three Musketeers. (1993) **4.25** Deal or No Deal. **5.25** Channel 4 News. **5.55** The Political Slot.
6.00 Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold. (2009) The mischievous schoolgirls hunt for buried treasure after learning their headmistress Miss Fritton is descended from pirates. Comedy sequel, with Rupert Everett and Gemma Arterton.
8.00 Terror in the Skies. Aeronautical engineer Brendan Walker looks at how the reliance on increasingly complex technology in planes could cause pilots to make new kinds of errors.
9.00 The Returned. The French supernatural thriller continues. Simon approaches Adele, only for Thomas to find out about his "return", while Camille finds herself unable to fit back into her family.
10.05 Film: District 9. (2009) A South African bureaucrat gets stranded in an internment camp meant to segregate alien refugees from the human population. Sci-fi, starring Jason Cope.
12.10 Film: Hustle & Flow. (2005) **2.10** Southland. (R) **2.55** I Hate That Smile. (R) **3.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **3.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **4.50** Countdown. (R) **5.35** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.10** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.45** ThunderCats. (R) **11.10** William and Kate: Baby Makes Three. (R) **12.10** Big Brother: Secrets & Lies. (R) **1.10** BB BOTS: Rylan's Supersized Celebrity Sunday. **2.10 Film:** Dr Dolittle 3. (2006) **4.00 Film:** Daddy Day Camp. (2007) **5.45** 5 News Weekend. **5.50 Film:** Around the World in 80 Days. (2004)
8.00 Once Upon a Time. Rumpelstiltskin creates a new potion that allows him to cross the town border.
9.00 Big Brother: Secrets & Lies. Daily round-up of highlights.
10.00 Film: As Good as It Gets. (1997) Romantic comedy drama, starring Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt.
12.45 Campus PD. **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Match of the Day Live. Mexico v Italy (Kick-off 8.00pm). **10.00** The Call Centre **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 The Dark Ages: An Age of Light **8.00** The Review Show **9.00** Fathers and Songs: Music for Father's Day **10.00 Film:** My Afternoons with Margueritte (2010) **11.20** What's Going On? The Life and Death of Marvin Gaye
ITV2
2.25 Film: Dragonheart (1996) **4.35** You've Been Framed and Famous! **5.40 Film:** Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace (1999) **8.15 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Big Rich Texas **11.50** Hell's Kitchen
ITV3
3.40 Inspector Morse **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** David Jason's Greatest Escapes **9.00 Film:** Meet Joe Black (1998)
ITV4
2.35 Lonesome Dove **6.40 Film:** Escape to Victory (1981) **9.00 Film:** Species III (2004) Sci-fi horror sequel, starring Sunny Mabrey. **11.15** Father's Day **11.40 Film:** McVicar (1980)
E4
4.30 90210 **5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** New Girl **8.00 Film:** Hairspray (2007) **10.15** The Inbetweeners **11.15** Alan Carr: Chatty Man
Film4
3.00 Star Trek: Generations (1994) **5.15** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **7.05** Big Momma's House (2000) **9.00** Frozen (2010) Thriller, starring Emma Bell. **10.50** Saw (2004) Horror, starring Cary Elwes.

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
Green Card, BBC1, 12.05am
A French musician wanting to start a new life in America and a New York woman vie for the perfect flat, only to discover the owner will only rent it out to a married couple. The unlikely pair realise they can solve their problem by getting hitched. However, suspicious immigration officials keep a close eye on them, forcing them to actually live together – and eventually the sham marriage turns into true love. Romantic comedy, with Gerard Depardieu and Andie MacDowell. (1990)

TUESDAY
Biker Boyz, BBC1, 11.35pm
The son of a mechanic killed in a crash is determined to honour his father's memory by becoming a champion motorcycle racer. However, the leader of the underground motorcycle club where his father worked refuses to let him join. Outraged, the young biker assembles his own team and vows to avenge the insult. Action drama, starring Laurence Fishburne, Derek Luke, Orlando Jones and Lisa Bonet. (2003)

Biker Boyz, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY
Flight 93, Channel 4, 2.20am
Fact-based drama about the events aboard the one plane used in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. After learning of the terrifying events at the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, the passengers realised what was happening and fought back to wrest control of the aircraft. Starring Jeffrey Nordling. (2006)

Columbo: A Stitch in Crime, ITV, 3am
The detective investigates the murder of a nurse, who was about to denounce a renowned cardiac surgeon for planning to murder the colleague helping him design a lucrative life-saving drug. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, Leonard Nimoy and Will Geer. (1973)

FRIDAY
The Deer Hunter, ITV, 10.35pm
The lives of three American steelworkers and their families are torn apart in the wake of the Vietnam War. After enduring horrific treatment in a prison camp during the conflict, the three friends return to their homes but struggle to readjust to normal life. Oscar-winning drama, starring Robert De Niro, Christopher Walken, Meryl Streep, John Savage and John Cazale. (1978)

The Shipping News, BBC2, 11.05pm
A man struggling to rebuild his life after the death of his emotionally distant wife moves to a small town with his daughter and estranged aunt, where he undergoes a profound journey of self-discovery. Lasse Hallstrom's drama, starring Kevin Spacey and Julianne Moore. (2001)

Pick of the Week

Bringing Hollywood style to Peterborough

When you think of interior décor, what springs to mind? For most of us, it probably means a new lick of paint, or some wallpapering to cover that unsightly crack on the wall, and maybe, if you're feeling flush, the odd piece of new furniture here and there.

Although it's a profession that's been around for many a moon, probably many of us hadn't paid much attention to the idea of employing such a person until Changing Rooms came along in 1996 and made stars of the likes of Linda Barker, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and Anna Ryder Richardson.

For many years, Carol Smillie looked on as they and their colleagues cleared out people's living rooms or bedrooms, took a humble piece of MDF and transformed the place into a palace.

It rarely looked as if their efforts could withstand a gust of air created by a slamming door, but for the five minutes they were on camera, they were pretty good.

Changing Rooms' success meant heaps of copycats series followed in its wake, although in recent years, the home makeover genre has largely fallen out of the spotlight. But that could all be about to change... That's because Martyn Lawrence Bullard is heading to our screens in **Hollywood Me, Channel 4, Wednesday, 8.00pm.**

He's spent years working his way up Los Angeles's society ladder via his profession as an interior designer, and now boasts a client list that includes Elton John, Cher, Aaron Sorkin, the Osbournes and Christina Aguilera – eat your heart out, Linda and co!

Martyn has also presented several US shows, and now he's bringing his unique style to the UK for this new, six-part series – and we're promised that his renovations will please their home's owner, and will be standing for many years to come.

"Martyn is one of Hollywood's most sought-after and flamboyant interior designers and we are delighted that he is bringing his unique touch of eccentricity and celebrity glamour to unsuspecting members of the British public," says Channel 4's Dominic Bird.

Each edition will see Martyn jetting a British resident to California for a makeover, while he transforms their home into a luxury pad. The first episode sees him visit Peterborough, where hard-working mother of quads Emily Bates is in need of some TLC.

In LA, she's taken under the wing of Sharon Osbourne, who takes her on an amazing shopping spree.

Meanwhile, back home, Martyn sets to work, giving Emily's Peterborough pad an injection of Hollywood glamour – but will she be impressed with the results?

Executive producer Rob Butterfield is confident all participants will be thrilled: "With the weather, the economy and the news so gloomy, Hollywood Me brings some much needed La-la Land sunshine, A-List eccentricity and makeovers to die for.

"Martyn is a great interior designer – he's witty, incredibly talented, but a fish out of water working in the UK suburbs rather than the Hollywood Hills.

And our contributors really do have the times of their lives as they're whisked over to LA for a day of A-list treatments with one of their favourite celebs."

Martyn Lawrence Bullard, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell return for this tear-jerking series that reunites, well, long-lost family members. But it's the latter for whom this first episode is going to hit rather close to home. Nicky was adopted as a child, and is now a patron of the British Association for Adoption and Fostering. He meets fireman Alan Ross-Harper who's searching for his birth mother who gave him up for adoption in 1958. Keep the tissues handy, as Davina pays a visit to reunite the mother and son. Meanwhile, 68-year-old Susan Udy is desperate to find the daughter she gave up for adoption when she was 21.

Tuesday
Something for Nothing
Channel 4, 8pm
Times are hard. Of course you don't need that pointing out – you're reminded every time you check your bank balance – which is why this little treat has dropped into the schedules at just the right time. Consumer journalist Harry Wallop is on a mission to find out how to live well, without spending a single penny. He's set himself the challenge of looking good, spending a night on the town and throwing a big shindig for the whole community… on a budget of absolutely nothing. The programme is bursting with tips on how to grab cash-free bargains and features some of the most successful freebie finders in the country, including Martha who bagged herself £26,000 worth of wedding freebies.

Frankie
BBC1, 9pm
Gemma Redgrave is no stranger to medical dramas – she used to be the star of Bramwell, the tale of a pioneering Victorian female doctor, who was constantly been belittled by her male colleagues. However, Frankie has given her a chance to play the snooty medic who's lost touch with her patients' needs for a change, as Dr Evans once again butts heads with our feisty district nurse. In the last in the current series, Frankie is frustrated when Nicky, a patient suffering from systemic lupus is told she is fit to work and has her benefits cut. Meanwhile, Dr Evans' solution is to prescribe her steroids so she can get through a shift at the supermarket.

Wednesday
Rhys Jones's Wildlife Patrol
BBC1, 7.30pm
Rhys Jones is a scientific consultant at Cardiff University who works with the police, wildlife groups and concerned members of the public in the fight to save our animals from humans, and humans from animals. Around half his work takes place in the field, investigating wildlife crime, while the other half is spent dealing with the conflicts caused when humans insist on dealing with the animals themselves. This new series, first broadcast in BBC Wales, follows his investigations into animal cruelty.

Love and Marriage
ITV, 9pm
Ken (Duncan Preston) fakes illness in an attempt to win Pauline (Alison Steadman) back. However, she ignores his efforts and goes to a posh hotel with new partner Peter. Meanwhile, a cash-strapped Kevin (Stewart Wright) pinches money from a deceased pensioner. When his mistruths finally catch up with him, Sarah (Ashley Jensen) is stunned by the lies and dreads the fact her husband could be heading for prison.

Thursday
Airport Live
BBC2, 8pm
Documentary series Airport finished its run for good way back in 2008 (Jeremy Spake – remember him? – certainly has a lot to be thankful for since the show thrust him into mild celebrity status). However, this latest series of Airport Live has shown that we've not lost our appetite for all things aviation. The team pitch up at Heathrow for the final time, as Dan Snow finds out if he has what it takes to become an air traffic controller, while Anita Rani discovers how planes might offer a quieter future.

Would I Lie to You?, Friday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Friday
Would I Lie to You?
BBC1, 8.30pm
On Super Saturday during the 2012 Olympics, the then little-known Greg Rutherford won gold in the long jump. A year ago, the unassuming sporting hero would probably have laughed if you'd told him that within 12 months he'd be an Olympic champion, have an MBE and be appearing on Would I Lie to You? But here he is, completing the third event in that particular trio. Whether he's as good at fibbing as he is jumping remains to be seen, but he'll be pitting his wits against broadcaster Kirsty Young, actress and writer Joanna Scanlan and German comedian Henning When. As ever, Rob Brydon takes charge, while David Mitchell and Lee Mack are the team captains.

Britain's Secret Homes
ITV, 9pm
Michael Buerk and Bettany Hughes present another edition of the posh homes countdown show featuring 'cutting-edge CGI' (the law for most documentaries these days), while there is also archive footage and dramatic reconstruction. In episode three, Gethin Jones visits a B&B called Bodiwan in North Wales; Homeland actor David Harewood visits Picton House, built by a man who came to Britain as a slave, but ended up as one of the country's richest men, and Rory McGrath visits St. Levan's cell, a ruined structure on the coast of Cornwall. Plus, Lucinda Lambton learns more about Renishaw Hall near Sheffield, and Ann Widdecombe visits a unique 18th-century abode in Devon.

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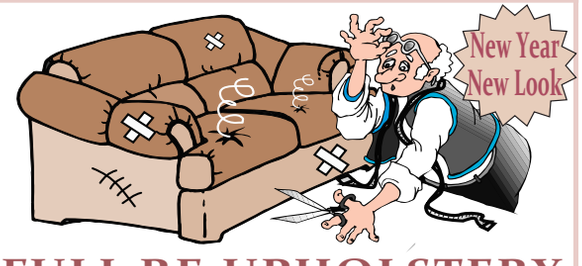

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

24	16	9	2	■	■	6	■	■	24	10	10	5
■	24	■	■	10	15 R	13 A	5	5	■	24	■	21
11	15	13	20	24	■	8	■	1	7	13	15	11
■	9	■	■	23	■	1	■	13	■	23	■	24
■	24	16	14	21	16	24	24	15	■	16	26	18
12	■	■	■	11	■	23	■	■	■	21	■	13
13	11	11	19	24	11	■	4	26	1	20	24	2
16	■	21	■	■	■	6	■	17	■	■	■	5
12	8	5	■	6	13	15	3	2	13	15	11	■
21	■	1	■	24	■	24	■	14	■	■	15	■
12	24	24	9	24	■	24	■	24	25	8	13	19
24	■	15	■	11	26	22	24	16	■	■	18	■
5	24	16	11	■	■	24	■	■	20	24	19	12

1	14
2	15 R
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 A	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 K	2 W	3 R	4 A	5 C	6 Y	7 Z	8 O	9 V	10 G	11 M	12 I	13 L
14 H	15 B	16 P	17 Q	18 S	19 J	20 D	21 T	22 X	23 E	24 U	25 F	26 N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

1	2		3	■	4	■	5	■	6	■	■	7
■		■	8									
■		■		■		■		■		■	■	
9								■	10		11	
■		■	■	■		■		■		■		■
12			13			■	14					
■		■		■	■	■	■	■		■		■
15					16	■	17					
■		■		■		■		■	■	■		■
18				■	19				20			
	■	■		■		■		■		■		■
21										■		■
	■	■		■		■		■	22			

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1 & 10 Ac. It's a disadvantage to retreat (4,4)
8. Being in another country, I repeat tax fiddle! (10)
9. Fellow craftsman? (8)
10. See 1 Across
12. Shocking scares - the gentle touch is needed (6)
14. The record will require only a small amount of time (6)
15. Was consistent with a bad habit at table (6)
17. Gaming-piece built to withstand attack (6)
18. A kind of box, but not for clothing (4)
19. Having no rash (8)
21. Those blooming plots! (6-4)
22. A bit of joint ownership for a sizeable community (4)

Down

2. The correct aspect is a matter of precise degree (5-5)
3. To be in full cry? (4)
4. To strike father back causes a shock (6)
5. Current line of fast-moving vehicles (6)
6. Breaks up the orchestras? (8)
7. A number of cards providing a kind of hand (4)
11. Stock market display in which bulls but not bears will feature! (6-4)
13. Sounds as though I scan through the books, but they're a little above the pupils (8)
16. Not a fertile place to leave (6)
17. Mob round the East shouted triumphantly (6)
18. A natural aptitude is present (4)
20. Survive after everybody else (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Blackleg (4)
8. Power of command (10)
9. Contour line of equal temperature (8)
10. Uniform (4)
12. Climb (6)
14. To moderate (6)
15. Let (6)
17. Strangeness (6)
18. Sore on the eyelid (4)
19. Middling (8)
21. Merge (10)
22. Require (4)

Down

2. Compatible (10)
3. Blemish (4)
4. Obvious (6)
5. Allow (6)
6. Respected (8)
7. Twirl (4)
11. Voters (10)
13. Coming from the east (8)
16. Lower (6)
17. Severe trial (6)
18. Break suddenly (4)
20. Begin (4)

Sudoku

4			5		6			1
		1	3	2	8			
		5				6		2
	2		6		9		1	
		3				9		
	7		8		1		2	
		6				4		9
	4		9	5	7			
9			4		2			8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	2	1	6	7	3	4	5	9
5	3	9	1	4	8	2	7	6
4	6	7	5	2	9	1	3	8
9	8	5	2	6	1	3	4	7
7	4	2	9	3	5	6	8	1
6	1	3	7	8	4	5	9	2
2	7	8	3	5	6	9	1	4
1	5	6	4	9	7	8	2	3
3	9	4	8	1	2	7	6	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Atoll; 8 Scruple; 9 Embrace; 10 Totem; 12 False hopes; 15 Interprets; 18 Looks; 19 Fall out; 21 Athlete; 22 Siren. Down: 1 Career girl; 2 Doubt; 3 Plea; 4 Assess; 5 Crotchet; 6 Epitaph; 11 Music stand; 13 Arrested; 14 Atrophy; 16 Rafter; 17 Board; 20 Lost. QUICK - Across: 7 Moody; 8 Arbours; 9 Opulent; 10 Tempt; 12 Stentorian; 15 Incendiary; 18 Naive; 19 Undergo; 21 Revolve; 22 Brief. Down: 1 Imposition; 2 Bogus; 3 Type; 4 Hasten; 5 Abattoir; 6 Turmoil; 11 Tonic sol-fa; 13 Tenderly; 14 Achieve; 16 Inured; 17 Train; 20 Debt.

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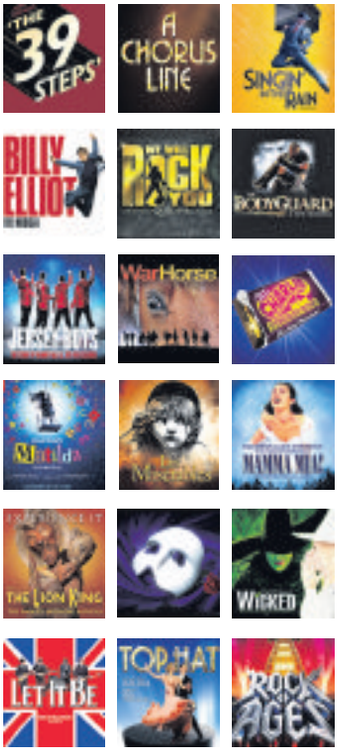

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These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.*

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Property

The immaculate garden features a wide lawn and patio

A P-shaped conservatory is a nice addition to the home

£219,995 for a spacious bungalow with potential

A DECEPTIVELY spacious detached bungalow with larger than average room sizes is for sale with a price tag of £219,995.

The property in Mill Lane, Willenhall, has an entrance porch, entrance hallway, 22ft lounge, 21ft P-shaped conservatory, fitted kitchen, separate utility, four double bedrooms, family bathroom and guest cloakroom, as well as benefitting from garage, uPVC double glazing, gas central heating and block paved driveway.

The cloakroom has a WC, and there are four bedrooms, a bathroom with WC, pedestal wash hand basin and corner spa bath with shower over, with a utility with cupboard, work top and space and plumbing for automatic washing machine.

The kitchen, 10ft 10in by 8ft, has a range of wall and base units, work tops, inset one-and-a-half bowl sink, built-in electric oven with electric hob over and breakfast bar.

Measuring 21ft 11in by 13ft 9in the lounge has a feature fireplace with marble hearth and patio doors to a conservatory which is 21ft 8in by 13ft 2in and with French doors to the rear.

Outside to the front is a block paved driveway with ample parking and leading to the garage with to the rear a garden mainly laid to lawn with paved patio area.

Call L& S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595 for details.

A large driveway at the property has ample parking space

Conservatory and utility are big plus for this semi

Situated on Furlongs Road, this semi-detached is on sale with estate agent Connells for offers based on £139,950

A refurbished and immaculately-presented semi-detached house, situated in the popular location of Furlongs Road, Sedgley, is on the market based on offers around £139,950.

The property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, with accommodation briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, conservatory addition, fitted kitchen, utility area, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

On the ground floor the lounge is 10ft 8in by 13ft 2in and the dining room 10ft 8in by 10ft 10in and with French doors to a conservatory measuring 9ft 6in by 10ft 5in.

The kitchen, 8ft 4in by 11ft 5in, has a range of wall and base units with roll-top work surfaces.

In addition, there is a stainless steel sink drainer, space for appliances and plumbing for an automatic washing machine, with a utility room with space for appliances and work surfaces and a WC.

Shrubbery

On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom having panelled bath with shower over, basin in vanity unit and WC.

Outside to the front is a driveway with offf-road parking, and to the rear a patio area, lawn, plants and shrubbery.

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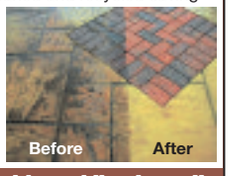

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

AMERICAN BULLDOG, classic type, lovely temperament, gorgeous puppies, 4 girls, 5 boys, wormed and vet checked, 8 weeks old, £500. 07854 348324.

BLACK KITTENS for sale, litter trained and wormed, £10. 07773 586541.

BORDER COLLIE pups, 5 beautiful females, parents can be seen, ready July 7. 07828 701534.

CAVAPOO PUPPIES and Juniors, Apricot/Black. £350/£750. 07867 530504.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPY Pedigree with papers, boy, £450 genuine reason. 01902 650546 or 07943 834072.

CHIHUAHUA(2/4), Yorkie(1/4) cross Beautiful. 4 bitches,1 dog. Wormed Ready now, £300. 01902 405173.

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Rehoming - **Priest** - Young Staffie, male. **Barney** - English Bull Terrier X, 8mths. **Mitzy** - terrior, 10yrs, female. **Poppy** - X Breed, 6mths. **Bonnie & Sharnie** - JRT's, 10 & 8yrs. **George** - Lurcher, male, 18mths. **Freddie** - Staffie X, 2yrs, male. **Lulu** - Staffie, female, 18mths. **Zippy** - Lurcher 3yrs, male. **Percy** - Mastiff X, 2yrs. **Pearl** - young Blue Staffie, female. **Stella** - young Blue Staffie, female.
01299 269181 or 07564 262371 www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

JUG PUP(Jack Russell x Pug) 8 weeks, male. Very pretty. Fawn. £350. 0781 6067863.

LACIE
Is a five year old rescue Akita X German Shepherd Dog. Desperate for a loving home. Micro chipped. Very loving. Can live with dogs.
Phone 07928 727496.

MINIATURE JACK RUSSELL pups, beautiful markings, parents on view. £200. 01902 685399.

SHI TZU PUPPIES 1 brindle and white dog, 1 brindle and white bitch, 3 black and white bitches, 8 weeks old, all have loving temperament. 01543 493476.

SHIH TZU X Poodle puppies, absolutely gorgeous. £395. 07867 530504.

SIBERIAN HUSKY male puppy, KC registered, 9 weeks old, £700. 07535 529247.

STAFFORDSHIRE Bull Terrier, Male, excellent with children, change in working hours forces parting. 01384 326598.

WEIMARANER PUPPIES, KC reg., Excellent pedigree. First injection included. Telephone 07917 276494

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

businesses for sale

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6 Property

houses for sale

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LOOK

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LOOK

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DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS tenants

DUDLEY, 1 bed Apartment, locked gate parking, £475pcm includes bills. 07870 894355.

EAST PARK large 3-bed, CH, off street parking, laundry room. £125pw. 07748 758169.

GREENLAWNS - STUDIO FLATS, Bed-sits with ensuite. Three bedroom maisonette. DSS accepted. Call 0121 427 5478 or 07833 532982.

LARGE THREE bed detached House, Codsall area. £650 pcm. No DSS . Call 07967 422991.

LOWER GORNAL, single self contained flatlet, fully furnished, own facilities, suit applicants aged 35+, from £80pw inc. 01384 821363.

NETHERTON AREA. House to let, no pets, DSS welcome. Telephone 07780 704435.

ONE AND THREE BED FLATS, Tipton. DSS considered. 07961 301577 / 07906 878175.

THREE BED SEMI, Blakenhall, near shops/schools, with drive and large garden, £525pcm. 07894 940976.

W-TON DOUBLE BED 1st floor flat, parking, kitchenette, £325pcm. Doolittle & Dalley 01746 763336.

bungalows

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to rent, long lease required, detached, two bedrooms, for retired couple, Halesowen / Dudley area.
Good References available.
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mobile homes

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01902 851730/ 01785 711175.

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Immaculate 40x20ft park home, backing onto natural woodland with outstanding views, 2 bedrooms, 1 ensuite, utility room, study, 10ft x 10ft conservatory, CH, DG, on corner plot with large garden and parking.
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7 Jobs

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A4 1.9 TDi 2002, metallic black, FSH, MoT, tax, high miles, EW, EM, 55mpg, excellent condition, £1,800. ono. 07414 920287.

BMW 320i SE
Touring Automatic, 2002 (52 Reg), luxury Estate, 2.2 Petrol, lady driver, immaculate metallic blue paintwork, ABS, AC, full MoT and tax, CD/Blue Tooth Radio, Spoke alloys, newish tyres, steering wheel controls, remote central locking, top specs, magnificent condition
£2,350.
07798 558930

BMW E36 CABRIOLET
Full leather, alloy wheels, full MoT, 80,000 miles, includes personalised number plate, quick sale.
£1,600
07774 271432.

BMW X5 silver, 64k, 55 plate, sat nav/TV/CD changer, tax and MoT, £7,500 ono. 07792 824754.

BMW Z4 2.5 Convertible, 04, silver, heated leather, FSH, parking sensors, just serviced, £5,550 ono. 07949 204212, 0121 602 2828.

CITROEN C3 1.4 DESIRE
07 reg, 57,000 miles, FSH, 5dr, grey, alloys, 12 months MoT, CD player, excellent condition, inside and out.
£2,795.
07534 409404.

FORD FOCUS 1.6Zetec, 53, 04, 65k miles, MoT, EW, CL AC, some service history, clean car inside and out. £1,900 o.n.o. 07773 482494.

FORD FOCUS 1.8, V reg, e/w, pas, c/l, green, 54,000 miles, £1,800 ono. 07999 241685 or 0121 5540309.

FORD MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 diesel, 57 reg, full MoT, tax, history, excellent condition, £5,395. 01902 562335 or 07531 868858.

GOLF CABRIOLET Av-Ge, 2.0, black, 2001, petrol, 107k, tax/MoT, lovely condition, all extras, £1,750. 01902 844652 or 07946 031901

KIA PICANTO 2006, only 13,300 miles, full MoT and tax, many extras, £2,850. 07905 121405.

KIA RIO 1.3LX, 03 plate, 11 months MoT, new clutch and parts, £1,795 ono. 01902 498889. 07818 218697.

MAZDA RX8 04, Red, 61k, Immaculate in/out, FSH, leather interior, alloys, 4 new tyres. Taxed. Mot Sept 13. £2,950. 07714 203820.

MAZDA RX8
2007 57 Reg., 34,000 miles, red, Bose 6 CD player, red and black heated leather seats, tax, MoT, climate control, FSH, immaculate condition.
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07944 610707.

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07595 203224.

1ST 2C WILL BUY

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1.6, 2008, black, half leather, sat nav, panoramic glass sunroof, 33K, MoT, 12 months tax, fsh, excellent condition,
£6,900.
07970 591540.

★ **NISSAN ALMERA**, automatic, 2004, 22,000 miles, silver blue, long MoT, tax, fantastic condition, elderly lady owner, Kinver, £2,400. 07773 338826.

PEUGEOT 206 Convertable, 2.0 petrol, 51 plate, silver, red leather interior low 55,000 miles, 9 months Mot, £1,600 ono. 01743 791045.

PEUGEOT 308 SW ESTATE, 2010, silver, petrol, manual, 1600cc, 7,500 miles, MoT, tax, £6,950. 01299 841011 or 07976 315462.

RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi, FSH, 9 months MoT, cheap tax, 65,000 miles, dark red, nice condition, £2,200 ono. 07724 749929.

RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 PETROL, 2008, wheelchair accessible, 42k miles, 12 months MoT, £4,250. 07974 311116.

RENAULT MEGANE COUPE
1.5 DCI, dynamique, tomtom, 2010, 13,500 miles, F Renault SH, sat nav, cruise control, parking sensors, alarm, keyless entry, electric mirrors.
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07976 869485.

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£6,199 ono. 07776 084849.

SKODA FABIA 1.2 HTPi, 59reg, burgundy, one lady owner, 15k, 2 services, tax/Mot Sept. Excellent condition. £4,495. 07967 662992.

SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 2008, 44,292 miles, black, £4,500 ono. Please call 01902 608468.

S-TYPE JAGUAR SE 2.5 Auto, 2003, 6 months tax, full MoT, 86k, immaculate throughout, must be seen, £3,000. 07593 708640.

SUZUKI WAGON R+ 1.3, 2005, red, MoT April 2014, fsh, immaculate, condition throughout, £1,950. 07754 294799.

TOYOTA RAV 4, 2002, 5Dr estate, diesel, 150k, MoT Sept, good condition, alloys, fsh, £2,300 o.n.o. 01299 828703/07749 144645.

VAUXHALL CORSA twinport 1.2, 2005, 5dr, MoT May 2014, tax till July, 60,000 miles, lady owner from 2005, £1,900 ono. 01902 752723.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 316I, R reg, 160,000 miles, MoT Oct, tax end June, £425 ono. 01902 863623.

BMW 316I SE, 51 reg, black, MoT, tax, 104k, e/w, alloys, very good condition, £1,100 ono. 07718 337079 or 0121 5315163.

BMW 318, auto, V reg., fsh, MoT August 2014, tax August 2013, 49k miles, petrol, metallic blue, new brakes, £995. 07719 907747.

BMW COMPACT 1.9i Auto, black, 2000, 110k, tax and MoT Feb 2014. £750 ono. Call: 07813 500297.

BMW COMPACT 1.9i Auto, black, 2000, 110k, tax and MoT Feb 2014. £900 ono. Call: 07813 500297.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6LX, X reg., MoT October, tax August, 86k, good condition. £895. 07721 061585.

FIAT PUNTO 54 reg, 5dr, silver, 69,000 miles, MoT and taxed, CD, good condition, £1,395 ono. 07507 383674.

FIAT STILO Sport Activ 1.6 2003, MoT, tax, good condition, £850 ono. 07773 016776.

FORD FIESTA 04, 90,000 miles, 8 months MoT, very good condition. £1,595 ono. 07954 437625.

FORD FIESTA 1.3, 1998, tax and MoT'd, very clean, 67,000 miles, £375. 07592 366253.

FORD FIESTA, 2001, 43,000 miles, 1.3 litre, blue, MoT, excellent condition, £850 ono. 07948 241759.

FORD FIESTA CTX, 1.4, 02 new shape, Mk 6, 4dr, 95,000 miles, MoT, colour coded bumpers, £1,495 ono. 07917 866722.

FORD FOCUS 2003 petrol 2L, aircon, silver, 82,000 miles. Call after 4pm. £975 ono. 07850 118711.

FORD KA 2001, long Mot and tax, excellent runner and condition, 84,000 miles, £850 ono. 01952 418555 or 07759 531947.

FORD KA, 2001, MoT, alloys, good runner, £750. Telephone 07976 784681.

KIA PRIMA P reg, 1200cc, green, 10 months MoT, no tax, brilliant condition in/out £350. 01902 566032.

KIA SERATO LX, 16, petrol, 04 reg, £550 ono. 07974 247207.

MERCEDES A140 CLASSIC, 52 plate, 70,000 miles, good condition, tax and MoT August, £1,150. Telephone 01902 682148.

★ **MG ZR**, 54 reg, tax and MoT until November, silver, one lady owner, 30,000 miles. £1,250. 01902 882973.

MGF V V C, T Reg, 62,000 miles, MoT, limited edition, prem condition, genuine reason for sale. £650 ono. 07808 663736.

MGZR
silver, auto, 52 reg, lady owner, MoT/ tax till Aug, leather interior, parking sensors, AC, CD, only 18,345 miles, service history, excellent condition,
£1000.
01902 843771.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4LX, 52 plate, 48k, new battery and exhaust, 6 months tax, 7 months MoT, mint condition inside, £950 ono. 07849 100212.

PEUGEOT 306 LX 1.4, 2001 X, all red, five door hatch, tax, long MoT, £695 ono. Must see. Please call 07780 882788.

PEUGEOT 306 Roland Garros, 1.6, M reg, green, cream leather, MoT, alloys, 1 lady owner from new, £600 ono. 07886 566477.

PEUGEOT 306, XSi, 2-0 petrol, red, alloys, EW, sun roof, MoT five months, £350 ono. 07533 274959.

MUST BE SEEN

PEUGEOT 406 SE HTi (110) ESTATE,
03 plate.
Was originally category D, but fully repaired.
Same owner for last nine years.
Fab, reliable vehicle.
Taxed. No MoT.
143,000 miles.
Odd things need doing hence price to sell **£900.**
0779 1808779.

MUST BE SEEN

ROVER 25 IMPRESSION S, 2001, Y reg, silver, 38k, tax Feb 2014, MoT May 2014, e/w, pas, c/l, radio/CD, £750 ono. 0121 5300186.

SKODA FELICIA 1.3, T reg., 5-door, blue, full MoT, taxed, 61k, sunroof, stereo, economical, £495. 07964 350386.

SUZUKI BALENO, blue, 1.6, MoT, tax, 65k miles, £600 ono. Telephone 07500 743675.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1998, 81,400 miles, green, long MoT, tax, good condition.. £400. 07552 695752

VAUXHALL TIGRA V reg, 87,000 miles, MoT, tax, auto, petrol, lady owner, £700. 07443 420914

VAUXHALL VECTRA ELEGANCE silver, 2.2 petrol, 2003, 79k miles, 6 mnths MoT, tax June, very good condition £1,250 07757 784279.

VW PASSAT SPORT
1.9 TDi, 1999, 125 k, MoT and tax until end of July, excellent condition for year, fsh, new belts at 107k, very economical. £1,200 ono.
07905 035513

motorbikes

AJS-CRAZY 50cc scooter, tax till next Feb, £800 ono. Ring for details 07914 386453.

SUZUKI GN125, 2006, 6,100 miles, red, recent service, MoT till Jan, new tyres, top box, good condition. £950. 07786 101211.

VESPA 90 SCOOTER
1964, full MoT, tax exempt, excellent condition.
Genuine calls only.
£1,700 ono.
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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Bentley puts you in the lap of luxury

CHINA probably isn't the first place that would spring to mind when choosing a suitable location for the launch of a new, and very important, car.

Out in the sticks, asphalt roads turn to gravel for no apparent reason, while in cities such as Beijing, congestion is something that happens all the time. And the driving style can best be described as freeform chaos.

But this is the new Bentley Flying Spur, a car which will be appearing on wish lists all over the world but particularly in the Far East. China's new breed of successful people find Bentley's restrained status and luxury are the perfect fit, hence the first examples have hit the streets of Beijing.

Rather than a radical change, the new Flying Spur wisely follows the template set by the original. It's an imposing four-door machine but with more curvature around the hips and greater separation from the Continental GT coupe.

Smoother

The nose has full-width grilles and at the rear there's a squared-off tail and a smoother flow of the boot lid.

The more radical customer might prefer lighter shades but the sensible soul will choose a more sober metallic for the proper Bentley look.

Starting at the back seats rather than the front, there is the kind of room you would expect from a car in which you might well be driven. It's as cosseting and elegant as you could wish for, while the huge range of wood combinations means you can make it as tasteful or otherwise as you wish.

As well as claiming a reduction in noise by 40 per cent over the old car, heated, ventilated and electrically adjustable seats for all offer an even better back-seat experience.

Bentley has introduced a touchscreen remote that sits by your knees and which glides elegantly forward at the touch of a button so it can be handheld. About the size of a modest mobile phone, you can control the satnav, audio system, rear climate control, sun blinds and even view the speedometer and trip computer. It's a small thing in many ways but it sums up the attention that has been paid to the details – and it really shows.

The Bentley Flying Spur is powered by a twin-turbocharged 6.0-litre engine producing 616bhp

The fundamentals, of course, are already well in place.

The body structure uses aluminium for the bonnet and front wings, a composite rear bootlid and high-strength steels for a better combination of safety and reduced weight.

Overall, the body is four per cent stiffer than before while the whole car is 50kg lighter – Bentley says this would be more but for an increased specification. Motive power comes from the superb twin-turbocharged 6.0-litre W12 already seen in the Continental GT, and here it produces a more than adequate 616bhp. Driving all four wheels through the impressive eight-speed automatic transmission, the Flying Spur is spectacularly fast despite its significant size and weight. The 0-62mph time is despatched in 4.6 seconds; 0-100mph in less than 10, and the top speed of 200mph surely is enough for anyone. The Flying Spur doesn't always feel this fast though; driven in full-on chauffeur mode, it will sail along as well as any super-luxury car.

A new specification tyre and softer suspension over the old car improve what was already a good ride but separates it further from the more sporty Continental GT.

Those wanting the bigger wheel options will pay a very marginal price in terms of slightly less bump absorption, but unless you make a habit of swerving between pot holes, the Flying Spur delivers superb comfort.

Powerhouse

Of course, that powerhouse under the bonnet offers such prodigious torque that you barely need more than a tiny prod of the accelerator to keep up with the traffic. Press more firmly and you can leave it well and truly behind. Even when giving everything, there's nothing more than a cultured roar from the exhaust as it unrelentingly blasts forward. The auto gearbox works best when left to its own devices despite the presence of paddles, while the dampers can be firmed up for more demanding driving.

The Flying Spur is inevitably a little more comfort-biased but it is no less capable when pushed through a series of bends. The brakes are immensely strong, the steering is reassuringly accurate and offers decent feel – in other words, it has the ability to hustle along way beyond the demands of 99 per cent of owners.

That sums up the new Flying Spur rather well. The improvements over the old car are in all the key areas, yet there's more performance, comfort and specification when there was already plenty. It's hard to see a way in which the Flying Spur could do anything other than deliver a very satisfying experience.

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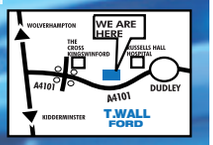

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Number one for sales in the area

THE team of local dealerships – Dudley Motor Company, Stourbridge Motor House, Halesowen Motor House and T Wall Garages – is celebrating this month after scooping the award for selling more cars than any other manufacturer in the area for 2012.

The four dealerships were presented with a No 1 trophy at the recent Vauxhall District Meeting.

Tim Barnes, retail operator, commented: "We are extremely proud to receive this award and we are delighted that sales have continued to grow into 2013 – we couldn't have achieved this without the hard work and enthusiasm of the team, so I would just like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of them for their dedication.

Tim Barnes (retail operator) Rob Gilbert (general manager, Dudley Motor Company) and Stephanie Howson (regional operations for Vauxhall Motors Limited) with the No 1 trophy for achieving the best sales figures in the area

Customers

"To us, customer experience is very important and so we always want to make sure that all new or returning customers are able to approach any member of the team and are well looked after.

"We aim for our service to exceed expectations and so I'm keen to ensure there are many more years of satisfied Vauxhall customers to come – here's to what we hope will be another successful year."

The independent, family-owned business is proud to have served motorists in the West Midlands for over 60 years, and with a fantastic range of new and used Vauxhall vehicles and an outstanding aftersales service, there's no wonder the dealership has been trusted by customers for such a substantial amount of time.

The business was first founded by Derrick Grieveson in Worcester in 1953 and operated under the name of Worcester Carsales. The dealership moved to a new site in Hylton Road, Worcester in 1963, and 1973 saw Mr Grieveson's son and current managing director, Stuart Grieveson, join the family company and more recently three of his children, cementing the future of the family run business.

Stuart Grieveson says: "We are immensely proud that we are, and have always been, a privately owned family-run business, as we feel this enables us to put our customers first.

At the dealerships, we don't look for short-term gain, we strive to build strong relationships with our customers and offer a quality service over a lifetime."

With the recent launches of the Vauxhall ADAM and Cascada, it really is an exciting time to be working with the Vauxhall brand.

Stuart Grieveson concludes: "We have a great range of innovative Vauxhall vehicles on offer, and with our team of experts on hand to assist each and every customer with their enquiry, we're confident we have a vehicle available to suit everyone's needs."

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Motoring

The new Volkswagen Passat R-line which has been given a new look with a unique body-styling kit

New Passat R-line will turn heads with its unique style

VOLKSWAGEN has given the Passat a fresh style injection with the announcement of an R-line trim level.

The model has also had a change of engine. A turbocharged and supercharged 1.4-litre TSI petrol unit with 158bhp has been introduced to replace a 1.8-litre unit that produced the same power.

The R-line Passat features a unique body styling kit and a 15mm lower ride height.

Rear tailgate and boot lid spoilers adorn the saloon and estate variants respectively, while the whole package rides on standard 18-inch wheels and wide, low-profile 235/40 tyres. Bi-xenon headlights, chrome bumper trim and dark-tinted rear windows help the R-line to stand out from more run-of-the-mill Passats.

Modifications

Inside, the standard equipment is based on that of the Passat S and includes Bluetooth, USB and iPod connectivity, DAB digital radio and a leather-trimmed multifunction steering wheel.

As well as the new 1.4-litre TSI, the R-Line is available with a 1.6-litre 103bhp TDI diesel engine with six-speed manual gearbox and a 2.0-litre 138bhp TDI diesel engine with a choice of six-speed manual or DSG gearboxes.The 1.4 gets either a six-speed manual or a seven-speed DSG auto, and all DSG-equipped models also get shift paddles behind the steering wheel.

All R-Line models feature BlueMotion Technology modifications with engine stop-start and battery regeneration systems.

For those searching for more equipment in a stylish package, the R-line body styling kit is available as a £900 option on Highline and Sport models.

The R-line model is available to order now, with the first deliveries expected in June.

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Plato's on fire – but Neal takes over lead

STOURBRIDGE racer Matt Neal leads the British Touring Car Championship – after rival Jason Plato's car caught fire in the third race at Oulton Park.

Plato notched a fine double in his MG KX Momentum before a dramatic fire put him out of the final contest, handing the championship lead to Neal in his Honda Yuasa.

Plato claimed pole position before securing two lights-to-flag wins in commanding fashion and was pleased with his weekend's work, "I've been on fire – literally," he said.

Plato's young team-mate Sam Tordoff starred in race one by claiming second place. Reigning champion Gordon Shedden took third in the opener before going one better in race two in his Honda Civic, while 2009 champion Colin Turkington claimed third in his eBay Motors BMW 125i M Sport.

The final encounter was won by Andrew Jordan in his Pirtek Racing Honda Civic after his team-mate Jeff Smith spun out of the lead with three laps remaining. Turkington scored another podium finish. Adam Morgan took his first ever BTCC podium.

Neal finished just 0.078sec off the rostrum but his results – a sixth place and two fourths – were enough for him to take the overall championship lead.

New talks on contract for Benteke

VILLA are not interested in Younes Belhanda and are re-entering contract talks with Christian Benteke.

Morocco international Belhanda is not on Paul Lambert's wishlist.

Villa are keen on doing early business and have already agreed a £2.5m move for Aleksandar Tonev from Lech Poznan.

The three-year deal will be rubber-stamped once the final paperwork is completed after the Bulgaria star passed a medical and agreed terms.

Villa are ready to continue contract talks with Benteke in a bid to keep the striker after earlier productive discussions but Alan Hutton wants to return to Spain.

Juniors score – in the right-sized goal

Football

STOURBRIDGE FC Juniors have scored a goal by netting funding through the FA.

The grant will mean that club players are able to play matches with goalposts that are the right size for their age.

Cash has come through the FA's youth football goalposts initiative, launched last year in partnership with the Football Foundation – the country's largest sports charity.

The Football Foundation works with the FA to provide funding towards the installation of goalposts in line with the FA's youth development review.

This promotes matches between teams of five, seven and nine players on smaller pitches with reduced-size goals. The aim is to develop more technically-gifted English players and the formats will be mandatory from next season.

Enjoyable

Research shows that the game is more enjoyable for youngsters as they get more touches of the ball and the game is less likely to be dominated by larger, more physical players. The move to small-sided matches means smaller goals than the full-size ones currently used in under-11 football.

With a pair of goals costing on average £900, a funding pot of £1m was made available by the Foundation to support clubs and leagues taking up the new nine-a-side and smaller formats of the game.

The first funding window, which closed in September, saw more than 600 clubs benefit from a total of £444,000.

The new window, which is open for applications now, sees the remaining £556,000 put up for grabs.

Sir Trevor Brooking, director of football development at the FA, said: "The first funding window for nine-versus-nine goalposts was extremely successful, with junior football clubs across the country making the most of the 50 per cent grants available to them.

"The small-sided format of the game helps youngsters to develop their touch and technique as they have more touches of the ball in a match.

"Young goalkeepers also benefit as they do not have to protect the same sized goal as a Premier League goalkeeper has to week in, week out."

Andy Bullingham, head of youth development at Stourbridge, said: "We are delighted to have had support from both the Football Foundation and Birmingham County FA for the purchase of our new equipment."

Firsts hit top form to close gap at top

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1
The George 229
Kings Heath Park 157

THE first team hit top form on Saturday at home to second-placed Kings Heath Park. Captain Phil Clinton who carded a 21-1 as The George closed in on the teams at the top.

South Staffs Premier Division
The George 230
Nordley B 132

In a rearranged arranged home match on Friday night, the B Team had a 98-shot win against Nordley B.

On Saturday, away at Victoria Park in Stafford, The George went down to a 69-shot defeat.

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 3
Drakes Drum 193
The George 199

The third team recorded a good away win at Drakes Drum to take them second in the league.

From June 17-21, four players from The George – Stewart Meddings, Paul Hemming, Chris Simpson and Jan Pratley – will compete in the The Isle of Man Summer Bowling Festival which has a prize fund of £16,000.

Long night's work will put plenty in the Tank

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston is hoping to give fight fans their money's worth when he tops a professional bill for the first time at Wolverhampton Civic Hall next month.

The 22-year-old also has the chance to win his first paid title, the International Masters middleweight crown, against Portuguese-born Spaniard Yuri Pompilio.

They clash in a 10-round match on Saturday, July 6 – a second shot for Aston after losing his Midlands title tilt.

by Craig Birch

Aston was beaten in two rounds that night – and a rematch with his nemesis, Nottingham's Curtis Valentine, is another target.

However, Aston claims his rival has 'gone missing from the gym' and instead will take on international opposition over a title distance.

And 'Tank' is hoping for a long night's work, to get vital ring time under his belt ahead of bigger challenges.

He said: "It's great that it's a title, but just to go the 10 rounds would be useful for me.

"Then I can move on to bigger and better belts in the future.

"We are training to go the distance – we train for 15 rounds, actually, so we can put 10 rounds of hard graft in if needs be come fight night.

"He's a natural light-middleweight, so he's having to come up a bit to fight me.

"But he's durable and a dangly switch-hitter who comes at angles.

"I need to cut the ring off, track him down and cut him into the corners when possible, then let my shots go when I have him pinned down."

Headlining at the Civic means a lot to the former Priory Park ABC amateur, a regular spectator at the venue's boxing bills over the last few years.

He's competed at the venue once and did so in style, taking out Telford's Kieron Gray in less than a round on the Prizefighter bill in February 2011.

Aston said: "It will be my home-town crowd at the Civic and it's nice to get everybody involved and behind me, particularly as it's on my own doorstep.

"It's a great venue, I have always said it and I wanted to be there boxing at least once this year.

"What a time to have it – for a title."

For more information and tickets, call the Civic box office on 0870 320 7000 or promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

Fullwell fails to keep up with rival Jones

Nick Fullwell in action at the Reebok against Wayne Jones. *Picture: Lawrence Lustig/PDC*

STOURBRIDGE darter Nick Fullwell is out of the 'FA Cup of darts' after losing to Wayne Jones.

Wolverhampton's Jones took their preliminary round clash 5-1 at the Speedy Services UK Open last week.

'The Wanderer' went on to put away Royden Lam 5-3 in the first round at Bolton's Reebok Stadium. But he was whitewashed 5-0 by double UK Open winner James Wade.

Halesowen's Michael Musto bowed out at the first stage, beaten 5-1 by Bernd Roith. Walsall's Matthew Dennant failed to cash in after going down to two-time World champion Adrian 'Jackpot' Lewis. Dennant beat Darrell Townsend 5-3 in round one and then powered past Andy Parsons 5-2. Wolverhampton builder Dean Stewart laid the foundations for his bid by easing through the preliminary, first and second rounds but lost 9-5 in the third round to Adrian Gray.

Jeavons in display of real power

GUEST James Jeavons took the honours in the third round of Stourbridge Cycling Club's 10-mile time trial series.

Conditions were almost perfect at Bobbington, Staffordshire – a light breeze on a warm sunny evening.

It could hardly have been better for the riders and they responded with some excellent performances.

Fastest around the two laps of the undulating five-mile course was Jeavons, who is making a habit of winning these events.

He clocked 23min 31sec followed by 20 SCC members, including Phil Glaze in 25.46 closely followed by youth Anthony Neave in 26.54.

Other Stourbridge CC performances were: Andy Collins 25.41; Kieron McMahon 26.53; Kevin Brain 26.57; Jack Cooper 26.57; Neil Ruston 26.59 and Roger Allen 27.14.

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SPORT

Long night
Boxer Ryan tops bill for the first time
Page 39

Nick nipped
Fullwell couldn't keep up with Jones
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Sparrow aiming to dislodge a Rooke

A DREAM final at the 2014 Ryder Cup venue Gleneagles is up for grabs for amateur Gary Morris and his Himley Hall PGA professional Mark Sparrow in Europe's biggest pro-am competition – The Lombard Trophy.

Morris teed up a chance to tread the fairways of the PGA Centenary course at the Scottish resort on September 3-4 when he won his club qualifying competition with a nett score of 67.

He and Sparrow now advance to the regional final at Little Aston Golf Club on Wednesday, July 24, where they will play one round of better-ball medal play with the chance to secure one of 16 spots available for the 36-hole grand final.

Morris, a 42-year-old stores supervisor from Brierley Hill, has been playing golf for 15 years and plays off a handicap of six.

Sparrow, 39, has been a professional at Himley Hall for eight years.

Last year's winners were PGA professional Lee Rooke and amateur Nick Jones from the Vale of Llangollen.

The tournament attracts more than 50,000 competitors and is now in its 29th competitive year.

The PGA National Pro-Am Championship has a total prize fund of £80,000, with the winning professional at the grand final taking home a cheque for £12,000.

Runners challenge the horses

A TEAM from Stourbridge Running Club, and individual club runner Duncan Cornich took part in the annual 22-mile Man v Horse marathon in Llanwrtyd Wells, Wales.

The relay team consisted of Mark Higgs, Andy Boardman and Pete Walters.

The team did very well and came back in 66th place, Cornich was 80th out of 430 entrants. The cross-country race was won by a horse.

Last week also saw the local Gavin Tipper annual 5k race, raced in memory of a former Dudley Kingswinford running club member.

The proceeds went to Action Heart. The race was organised by the DK club.

Stourbridge had four runners – first to cross the line out of 183 entrants was Keiran Pitt in 21:25.

Popular Hamill awaiting Heathens return

Speedway

CALIFORNIAN glamour boy Billy Hamill will make his first visit to a Dudley Heathens event next month.

Hamill, who was one of the most popular riders ever to wear Cradley colours, will be guest of honour when they host the FAST Golden Hammer at Wolverhampton on Tuesday, July 16.

Hamill won the world title in 1996, ironically the same season he won his one and only Hammer crown when Heathens were riding at Stoke.

And speaking from his Californian home in the early hours of Saturday morning, Hamill was excited about meeting the thousands of fans once again.

"I'm just so looking forward to seeing everyone again," said Hamill. "I'm following the Dudley Heathens from here in California on the website and the way the supporters are getting behind those young kids is superb.

"I've heard about the young boys at reserve, Max Clegg and Nathan Greaves, and I look forward to meeting up with them at the Hammer.

"My time at Cradley shaped my adult life. My memories of Dudley Wood are special and I really wish the Dudley guys well in what they are trying to do.

Support

"I know what wonderful support is there, they were awesome to me throughout my career and I can't wait to see everyone."

Fans will have the chance to meet Hamill for pictures and autographs before the meeting and he will also address the crowd during the interval.

The meeting is once again promoted in association with Dudley Stroke Association who are promoting their FAST message – Face, Arms, Speech, Time, if a stroke is suspected dial 999.

It promises to be another memorable night with the entire Heathens team in action along with the best of the National League.

Heathens head to Berwick for an inter-league challenge on Saturday and their next home meeting is against deadly rivals Mildenhall in the National League on June 25.

BRAGGING RIGHTS CLAIMED IN DERBY

Halesowen 1st XI 186 v Stourbridge 1st XI 244 – Stourbridge won by 58 runs

STOURBRIDGE 1st XI became joint leaders of Division Two of the Birmingham and District Premier league after winning their inaugural local derby against Halesowen.

Despite the presence of both teams in the league stretching into a decade, the two teams met for the first time.

Cricket

Skipper Richard Bradley won the toss and decided to bat. His decision paid off as openers Alex Bingham and James Lawley nullified the pace of Daniel Jeavons and Andy Roberts.

Lawley was first to go in the 19th over, off-spinner Rameez Pinjara trapping him lbw for 31.

Bingham (56) became Pinjara's second lbw victim with the Stour total on 101.

Change

Captain Bradley took the score to 124 along with prolific left-hander Audy Alexander when he too became another lbw victim, falling to Pinjara for eight in the 30th over.

A change of bowling paid off as Philip Croft had Alexander caught on the off-side boundary for 45.

When Lawley was tempted to drive the off-spinner Maharoof Azam to long on, he was caught for 42.

Bradley went on to score 32 before he was bowled by paceman Andy Roberts. Pinjara ended up with figures of 5-72 from 17 overs.

In reply, the home side made a bad start losing opener Mohammed Ishtiaq for 12 and No.3 Kester Moseley for five.

Recovery came from Mohammad Shauib and Rameez Pinjara who put on 52 in 12 overs.

Pinjara fell to the leg spin of Alexander, caught behind for 33 – and the home side lost further three wickets before the total had reached 100.

Mohammad Shauib (37) was run out; Hassan Quami was caught and bowled by Alexander for eight and Ryan Beaumont was bowled by spinner James Wood for a single to leave Halesowen 98-6 off 25 overs.

Griffiths and Croft revived hopes with a stand of 39 before Griffiths fell lbw to Wood for 14; his side still 107 short.

Croft put away Wood's 10th over for four boundaries and a six and took the total up to 166 before Alexander had Daniel Jeavons lbw for five and then had Roberts caught behind for a duck.

Maharoof Azam was last out, run out with 11 overs remaining, leaving Croft stranded on 66 not out.

Other results: Stourbridge 2nd XI 253-4 (Norgrove 111no) beat Quatt 143 by 110 runs

Hanley Castle 1st XI 253-7 winning drew v Stourbridge 3rd XI 131-7 (F Ul-Haq 50)

Hanley Castle 2nd XI 127 (Butt 4-15) lost to Stourbridge 4th XI 131-7 (Khalid 43no) by four wickets.

James Lawley of Stourbridge moves to fend off the ball from bowler Daniel Jeavons of Halesowen

Hat-trick of exits for Stour

STOURBRIDGE FC have seen their plans for next season hit by the departure of three high-profile players.

Keeper Lewis Solly, defender Paul McCone and striker Ben Mackey have left the War Memorial Ground.

Stalwart Solly, a former Wolves trainee, is moving on after a seven-and-a-half year stay in which he made more than 350 appearances. The 29-year-old was ever-present as the club rose from the Midland Alliance to become one of the Southern League Premier's strongest outfits.

But the fine form of Dean Coleman, drafted in when Solly suffered a knee injury in February, saw him out of the team and he made just one league appearance in the final run-in.

McCone has been a key figure in central defence for the past two years. He was named as manager's and directors' player of the season. McCone has moved to Leamington, who beat the Glassboys to the Southern League title.

Mackey scored eight goals to fire Stour's push for the play-offs after moving from St Neots Town in March. He has left for Southern League rivals Hemel Hempstead Town.

Wolves put £4m price on Sako

WOLVES have set a minimum price of £4m on wantaway Player of the Year Bakary Sako.

The club have received serious interest in the winger from Fulham and at least one other Premier League club, plus an unnamed Champions' League qualifier.

The 25-year-old cost £3m from St Etienne last August.

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